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FREE THOUGHTS

ON

QUACKS

AND THEIR

MEDICINES,

Occasioned by the Death of

Dr. GOLDSMITH and Mr. SCAWEN;

OR,

A CANDID AND INGENUOUS INQUIRY into the Merits and Dangers imputed to ADVERTISED REMEDIES:---IN which, an investigation of the nature and origin of their composition has been attempted: and the degree of confidence they deserve, ascertained. ---WHEREIN, also, have been occasionally interspersed some few animadversions tending to defend MINERALS in general, and exculpate MERCURY and ANTIMONY in particular, from the ill-judged and ill-grounded aspersions thrown against them; by proving the superiority of the productions of the MINERAL, over those of the VEGETABLE, Kingdoms.

Dedicated to the Legislature in general, or, both Houses of Parliament.

Interest Reipublicæ, cognosci malos. CICERO.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. WILKIE, No. 71, St. Paul's Church-yard,
and Mr. DAVENHILL, No. 30, Cornhill.

MDCCLXXVI.





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E R R A T A.

Page 9, l. 1. confaguine, read confanguine; p. 15, l. 5. abilites, abilities; p. 29, l. 13. spatters, spatter; *ibid.* l. 26. wouid, would; p. 42. l. 16. time, time being; p. 48, l. 14. kill. kills; p. 49, l. 18. anaseed, anifeed; p. 58, l. 2. in cafe, in the cafe; p. 62, *last* l. it in malt, of it in malt; p. 65, l. 12. *, †; p. 67, l. 18. On the other, On another; p. 80, l. 22. onctuous, unctuous; p. 94, l. 12. results, result; p. 106, l. 18. neceffarily, and neceffarily; *ibid.* l. 24. no nothing, nothing.



TO THE
BRITISH SENATE,
OR,
GREAT COUNCIL OF THE NATION.

PATRES CONSCRIPTI,

*I*NTEREST *Reipublicæ, cognosci Malos*, said once the Prince of Orators before a most august assembly. To you, therefore, RESPECTABLE BRITISH SENATORS, give me leave to address it again, in this very critical juncture: when wolves, cloathed in the habit of lambs, come, with a faint voice, to prostrate themselves at YOUR feet, and supplicate the sanction of YOUR authority, to extend still more privileges, already too large, and satisfy, the better, that insatiable thirst after riches which consumes them.

It was the opinion of the justly celebrated Chancellor BACON, that sure guide of every inquirer into NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, that MEDICINE was but a branch of it, and could not be improved until its imperfections were pointed out. And, how will, how CAN, its very well known, and much complained of, present imperfect state, ever be pointed out, if that ART be fettered, if it must be confined to a certain set of particular people who, pleasing to call themselves by the name of *regular-bred* to it, would like to engross to themselves alone, and exclusively of any one else besides, the free exercise of it; who would fain attempt to colour, with the most infamous denominations, any fair and candid inquirer into the merits and virtues of the drugs which compose the *materia medica*; while he is trying, for the sake of improvements, the inexhaustible modes of their combinations, and the innumerable advantages which may result from a just, and judicious application of them, in certain cases? Can it be expected that those so opulent practitioners, already drowned in profusion, voluptuousness, pleasure and luxury, will exert their *thickened* and congealed imagination in the improving of an ART, the very defects, and imperfections of which, alone constitute that unfathomable golden mine whence they draw all
their

their wealth; and which, to increase *still more*, they make it a point to exercise *still more* imperfectly than it really is. CONTRARIIS CONTRARIA CURANTUR is an axiom approved by experience, and undeniable by reason. To the old, rich, and wealthy tradesman, grown lazy and indolent, by an exuberant plenty, was not a young, industrious, man, opposed, what would become of trade, commerce and merchandising? ERROR and TRUTH always stand on the same line, and by the side of each other. From the discovery of the former, man is insensibly, and gradually, led to the enjoyment of the latter. Therefore, far from its being expedient as some would insinuate, to confine the number of those who are engaged, at one and the same time, in the inquiry and pursuit of a desirable object, it is evident that, the greater the number is, the sooner may the discovery, or attainment, of that object be expected. Had the pursuit of MATHEMATICS, GEOMETRY, MECHANICS, NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, and other branches of useful knowledge, been, as the ART of PHYSIC, productive of any daily pecuniary emolument, at the time of the pursuit and exercise, to their pursuers and exercisers, and had it been, at the same time, confined, in every age and every country, to a few select individuals, how far should we be now

b 2

from

from that light by which we are illuminated, and, to which we stand so much indebted for the many useful discoveries which contribute so largely, and in so many respects, to our present happiness and satisfaction?

Now, what are all these without HEALTH? How can HEALTH, considering our present most erroneous way of living, so different from former ages, be preserved, continued, or, recovered without MEDICINE? And how, by preference to any other art, can MEDICINE, the most interesting and the most intricate of any, be said, at this present time, to be brought to *its* perigee?—It is not.—If not; instead of fettering it more than it already is; instead of confining the number of the enquirers after it; it behoves then the LEGISLATURE to suffer, to ORDER it to be FREE and OPEN, for the benefit of society, to every ingenious enquirer. And, THEY may even think it again a very happy case that, without being at the trouble of finding, as in other branches of learning, proper rewards to excite those pursuers, increase their number, and encourage their steadiness and perseverance in such inquiries, the SUCCESS should carry those very rewards in itself; and the hopes only of enjoying one day a return, proportionable and adequate

quate to the utility of their discoveries, should support them in, and through, their labours; as experience shews that, by the unfortunate lot of man, that return never did yet, nor ever will, fail to prove, indeed, fully sufficient to repay largely such discoverers of NEW EFFICACIOUS MEDICINES for their time, trouble and expences.

It is too well known to the generality of individuals, too perfectly averred, too unquestionably authenticated, that those very same people who are understood and classed under the denomination of the FACULTY, impelled and stimulated by their selfish and interested views, never fail, wherever there is any appearance of lucre and profit to be drawn, to send an innumerable quantity of useless, and, as they please to consider and term them, *harmless* medicines to their patients, the dangerous effect of which is that, after having thus trifled and sported with their fellow-subjects' lives, for the sake of those pecuniary and mercenary emoluments they wished to derive from their credulity, they have often fixed and rivetted a light complaint, and metamorphosed it into a most hazardous and dangerous case, which it is not in the power of the most skilful ÆSCULAPIUS, afterwards, to eradicate; and which, after the most lingering pains, the most

excruciating torments, terminates, at last, in the death of the patient. While, a timely application of one single, and no expensive, medicine might have removed the cause of the complaint, and preserved an useful member to the community.

SUCH, MUCH RESPECTABLE SENATORS, is, however, and every individual among you knows it, if you do not, if YOU CANNOT, collectively know it as a body, such is the character of those men who, not yet content with the dangerous and extensive power already too incautiously vested in their hands, and which gives them the fatal opportunity of sacrificing, at pleasure, HIS MAJESTY'S faithful subjects to their insatiable avarice, their greediness and covetousness, are now plotting an application to this MOST AUGUST ASSEMBLY, in order to obtain, by surreptitious arguments and captious misrepresentations, a further extent of their already too large privileges; and a greater restriction of the sole and only means, now extant, which, narrow as they are, can put, however, some sort of a check to the ravage of their uncontrolled devastations, and their unlawful practices.

To

To my first text, therefore, ILLUSTRIOUS SENATORS, I return, and insist that it is highly the interest of this free, powerful and populous Nation, that the WICKED who disturb her bosom, who are daily nibbling her heart, should be known, and amened before this MOST AWFUL TRIBUNAL, to answer for their deeds and receive the sentence due to their deserts. Let the summons be given; and we shall see which, of the two contending parties, will be the readiest to obey it.

LET whoever will tremble. Conscious of my own rectitude, though ranged, by profession, among that particular class of people generally understood, and improperly denominated, by the empty and insignificant terms of QUACKS and EMPIRICKS, I am ready, whenever MALICE and ENVY shall sound the trumpet, to come full of that confidence and dutiful respect due, from every BRITON, to this MOST AUGUST ASSEMBLY, to stand forth in defence of the general rights of that class, and submit my own particular whole conduct, principles, motives and practice to the examen and censure which this GREAT AND IMPARTIAL ASSEMBLY, in its profound wisdom, will please to make, and, sure of its equity, to obey the sentence it will be pleased

pleased to pronounce. For, if *Interest Reipublicæ cognosci* MALOS, there results two things, first that *non minùs ipsimet Reipublicæ interest*, BONOS atque cognosci; and, secondly, that the investigation of the one, in one single case, is, and must absolutely be, productive of the discovery of the other.—It is the object of the following sheets, MOST RESPECTABLE SENATORS, to elucidate to the community this intricate point, hitherto kept, by the artful insinuations one set of people, and the indolence of the other, in producing any defence, under an impenetrable veil of darkness. But, should it ever be the lot of this important cause to come before YOUR AUGUST TRIBUNAL, I shall not be backward in coming to acknowledge, at your feet, as I have just reason to do, the real confidence I place in your penetration and the equitableness of your judgments, as well as the sincere respect with which I glory to declare myself,

PATRES CONSCRIPTI,

YOUR PROFOUND JUDGMENTS'

Most Humble and Dutiful

Admirer, and Religious Observer,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.



P R E F A C E.

THE unfortunate and untimely death of Dr. GOLD-SMITH, in March 1774, followed, little more than twelve months after, by that of Mr. SCAWEN; and both said to be owing to some of the most accredited *advertised-medicines*, raised, about that time, such an universal cry against those sorts of preparations, and their authors, that nothing less than a total abolition of both, seemed to be threatening, and near at hand. The triumphant car was already prepared which all the QUACKS were to follow, chained down to it, with their medicines hanging about their neck: and a great deal besides, more easy to be fancied than described, was expected to be the consequence of two such accidents, happening on two so conspicuous persons, as those last victims of *advertised-medicines*.---The scandalous charges, seasoned with the most malicious and envenomed language, and quickened with the most cutting lashes of invidious acrimony, were pouring like hail from all sides; and, in the midst of that storm, when every thing seemed to portend a wreck, the poor QUACKS seemed petrified, as if the *head of Medusa* had appeared before them, and

c

received

received the fire of the enemy with a kind of insensibility, and without offering to reply by one single round. ---Amazed, at that state of indifference, in the injured party ; and not knowing what to ascribe it to, whether to a want of feeling, to inability, cowardice, or what else ; and conscious, at the same time, of the goodness of the cause, as well as of the advantages of the grounds on which it was to be fought, I ventured a few reflections on paper, in defence of the MINERALS in general, and, especially the two most disparaged ones, MERCURY and ANTIMONY. There, I endeavoured, by rational arguments, and without any retaliation of injury, to convince unprejudiced minds of their power, their efficacy, and their SAFETY above all ; for, this was the great contended point, and the most material article. But, about the same time, the trial of Miss BUTTERFIELD came on at Croydon ; where, had it not been for a multiplicity of affairs then on my hands, I should not have failed to attend, first led by the same curiosity as brought thousands to that place, but more especially, and particularly, for the sake of hearing what might be urged and debated, about the merit or demerit of the medicines, to the charge of which Mr. SCAWEN's death was to be laid.---However, by the printed copy of that trial, which now lies before me, I had the satisfaction to find that nothing bad had been proved against any one in particular, and intrinsically, that is to say, in respect to the nature of their composition, and their application to the several purposes for which they are each singly and specifically calculated. As I found also, that it was clearly proved, to the satisfaction of the jury and all who were present, that ONLY an *improper* and *secret* use Mr. SCAWEN might

might *himself*, * (and without † the knowledge and participation of Miss BUTTERFIELD) have made of some such medicine, (but which, in particular, could not positively be ascertained) had perhaps contributed to or hastened, his destruction.

AFTER such an evident acquittal, of the many charges laid daily, for a great while, to the score of QUACK-MEDICINES, I expected every thing would have remained quiet as before, and the storm would have subsided, which had raged so vehemently against them for some time. Therefore, little desirous, after the example of a certain brother QUACK ‡ of the Strand, just fallied out from those obscure caves, and dark recesses under the sea, to erect, like him, my little fame on the bare point of a wave, for fear of seeing it sink back for ever into the gloomy dungeon whence it had sprung, I thrust my scribbling into my desk, with great composure, and there would have had it sleep a good while, had not the continual shrieks of that last animal forced it out again from the place I had assigned it *nonum in annum*.----I took it up again then, gave it a new form, and, such as it now stands, it would have come out in *January* last, had it not been prevented by an accident which happened to the person I had first appointed for the publishing of it.

* It appeared by the trial, that Mr. SCAWEN had a closet well stored with various medicines, and of all denominations, to which he used to recur sometimes in the absence of Miss BUTTERFIELD.

† Two things were alledged, and attempted to be established, in the trial of Miss BUTTERFIELD, neither of which were proved. The one, that Miss BUTTERFIELD was the administratrix of Mr. SCAWEN's death; the other, as a reply to this allegation, that he was killed by a *quack-medicine*. But, both assertions were proved equally void of foundation; and a much clearer evidence arose, that the horrid putrid state of his body was more than sufficient to bring on a natural destruction of the subject, through the pernicious effects of his own disease alone, and without the supposed assistance of any medicine whatever.

‡ See note page 3 of the *Free thoughts*, &c. where the true meaning, and application, of this word are elucidated.

THUS have I now acquainted my reader with the motives which prompted me to write, what gave them birth, and what, after this publication had been resolved upon, prevented its taking place sooner. This being accounted for, it seems as if I had nothing more to say, and should leave the public at liberty to examine my pamphlet, and pronounce on the validity, or insufficiency, of my arguments in favour of QUACKS and their MEDICINES.

BUT, the glaring absurdities contained in a certain pamphlet, the offspring of that *brother* of ours just mentioned, emphatically entitled, *An Account of the late Dr. GOLDSMITH's Illness, &c.* and pompously dedicated to the FIRST PAINTER OF THE PRESENT AGE for one patron, and to a certain UPRIGHT SENATOR, THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED ORATOR, for another, require from me I should take some notice of them, in order to prevent this *Lilliputian* of a writer from fancying himself, and trying to persuade us, that HE is also the FIRST CRITICO-PHARMACOLOGIST of this UNPARALLELED NATION, *for three evident reasons* * ; *first*, because he has two such eminent personages for patrons ; *secondly*, because he was, (as we have his WORD for it) in the intimacy of a man so much distinguished in the republic of letters as his late MUCH VALUED friend Dr. GOLDSMITH ; *thirdly*, and finally, because, (as he takes care to have it repeated THREE different † times in his Pamphlet) he has

* See his *account*, &c. p. 3. l. 3. He has generally *three reasons* for what he feels; therefore, why should we not suppose him *three reasons* likewise for what he does.

† Page 3, 21, and 35, of the said *account*, &c.—Our man seems to be very fond of number *three*.

been so assiduous in establishing * in this kingdom an institution for the RECOVERY OF PERSONS APPARENTLY DEAD BY DROWNING, &c.

THERE-

* Whoever has read Dr. MEAD's works, will know that, in one of his ESSAYS, intituled OF THE MAD DOG, he gives us all the directions necessary, and capable, to inspire any one with the scheme of establishing such an institution as that for which my honest brother quack affects so much to make us sensible of his indefatigableness to bring it about in this kingdom; as if no one else, before him, had ever had such a thought, nor been able to plan out such a thing, except himself. But this little quackish trick, we willingly forgive him. It is so, we know, that a real QUACK ought generally to work, when he wants to ingratiate himself into the good graces of the public, and render himself perspicuous at the cost, and with the spoils, of the greatest physicians who lived before him, and whose name, known only to those of the profession, is sometimes hardly ever heard of by any other besides. What then, really astonishes me, is a certain curious anecdote just communicated to me by a French gentleman well known in the republic of letters.—This gentleman informs me, that it was not without some surprise, he himself had taken notice of the affected silence observed, throughout the whole account of Dr. GOLDSMITH's death, concerning a very respectable gentleman of his acquaintance, Alexander JOHNSON, doctor in physic, whom my friend assures me to be really the first promoter of the scheme, for establishing, in this kingdom, an institution for the recovery of drowned persons, after the manner of similar institutions, already established, in France, Holland, Germany, and other places. The proofs of this assertion brought to me by this gentleman, are as follows.—That, towards the latter end of 1772, falling in company with Dr. JOHNSON, who was lately returned from abroad, he heard him mention, with a great deal of concern, how unhappy it was that so many unremedied accidents should happen on the river Thames, as did daily! How well ordered, in that respect, it was in several other countries, where he had travelled; and where societies were set on foot, on purpose for the recovery of those who had the misfortune to be drowned; and how surprising it was, that a country, like England, should appear so remiss in procuring an establishment of that kind, when it was so necessary, and, in so many respects, worthy her greatest attention!—That, towards the beginning of the following year (1773,) this gentleman, having had occasion to pay a visit to the DOCTOR, he found him very busy in collecting all the informations he could, from different parts of the continent, to prove, to the legislature of this kingdom, the possibility of the institution, the means by which it might be put into execution, and the great advantages it would be of to the community, &c. which collection of informations was then in the press, and came out a little after in one thick octavo pamphlet, with the DOCTOR's name at the head, under the title of *An Account of some Societies at Amsterdam and Hamburgh, for the Recovery of Drowned Persons, and of similar Institutions at &c, &c,* by ALEXANDER JOHNSON, M. D. London, sold by John Nourse, Wilkie, &c. 1773, as appears by the book itself, which my friend, having received from the DOCTOR's own hands, has now put into mine for my thorough conviction.—Therefore, as this gentleman never heard, at the time before specified, the

THEREFORE, to cut short, I will take the liberty to ask this mighty critick the *cui bono* of his account of Dr. GOLDSMITH's death ; the whole tendency of which may, I think, very well come within one of the three following QUERIES, and, as it will evidently appear, cannot easily avoid being one of them.

1st, WAS it with an intent, merely and solely, to give us the particulars of the death of a man whose "life" was † "*so valuable and so important to his friends, and society ?*"

2. WAS it through the generous design of POINTING OUT to us, as a modest, learned, and experienced practitioner, the "*several cases wherein*" the "*noted ‡ fever-*

the name of my dear *brother-quack* once mentioned in the mouth of Dr. JOHNSON, and not a word of him is said in the worthy DOCTOR's publication, I think I, and a great many more with me, should like to know how it comes to pass that all the laurels, for the planning, proposing, and establishing that so much boasted *institution*, which turns almost the brains of its preconiser, should thus be divided between him and Doctor C—G—N, without a single syllable dropped about Dr. JOHNSON, not even of mere acknowledgment and gratitude for the great pains, it is most glaringly evident, that a man of the merit and abilities of Dr. JOHNSON has taken in the affair, and taken most incontestably before any of the present claimants were and could be, in possession of it ; and to whom any one may see these must undoubtedly be indebted for the first hint and suggestion. In which case, I am glad of having had such an opportunity of doing this piece of justice to the highly meritorious Doctor JOHNSON, who, by the puffs of this newly *aggregated* duck, seemed in great danger of being soon or late deprived of the thanks of the Nation for his laudable zeal in laying the first stone of the aforesaid institution, and in furnishing all the other materials necessary and requisite for its being carried into execution, by means of proper memorials, instructions, rules, directions, &c. As for my part, fond of acknowledging and honouring real merit, wherever I find it, it is pleasing to me to have an opportunity of paying a proper homage where I see it due ; and, as I think nothing so mean as to ascribe to one's self the honour of other people's productions in any common case, so in matter of such public concern, I think it worse still ; therefore one may guess what I think.

† Page 3 and 9 of the Account.

‡ Page 9, line 7.

“*powder*” of Dr. JAMES *has proved injurious*,” and, prudently and humanely, to distinguish, for the benefit * of mankind, such cases from those in which, by “*a proper and skilful exhibition of them, much good † has arisen?*” Or, rather (as it appears more plainly and openly declared in the appendix) was it not really a malicious scheme “*to exhibit ‡ to the world, one example of the horrid deeds done in the dark,*” not by the *fever-powder* only, but (taking a larger scope at once, and throwing down the mask of conscience and honesty, under the disguise of which he had affected to screen himself before) “*by*” all “*powerful medicines*” without exception ?

3. OR, was it not as likely an artful contrivance, to have an opportunity to make himself conspicuous, by *exhibiting to the world* his connexions with the great men of the age, the *literati*, the renowned artists, the patriots and popular politicians, &c. and of singing his own praises on various keys, as a man of deep medical knowledge ; a man of long (15 || years) practice and experience ; a man of tender feelings for his fellow-creatures ; a man, in short, of credit and consequence in life, who is at the head of the most laudable of institutions, (*an institution for the resurrection of dead people !*) and, of course, (for such must unavoidably be the conclusion) a man--- not who has *the vain desire § of appearing in the character of an author*,---but WHO would be very glad, I dare say, to be henceforth looked upon as the best, the most skilful apothecary in London,---in England,---in all the world ; and, even at the very expence

* Page 12, line 2, 3, &c.

† Page 9, line 16.

‡ Page 33, line 3.

|| Page 3, line 2.

§ It cannot be supposed, since he has protested against it, page 9, line 11.
of

of his much boasted of humanity, to engross all the practice to himself, should *all his brethren* be starving at the same time, and HE forced to ride in his chariot all his life.

HAD the author of the *Account of Dr. GOLDSMITH's death* had no other view but that pointed out in the first *query*, it might have been a laudable one enough : especially as we are remarkable for wasting much ink and paper, in all cases, to extol to the very skies, and record in the temple of memory, every little bubble which the wind carries over our head. Therefore Dr. GOLDSMITH who, a bad * physician enough because he had only been bred to it, had distinguished himself among us by some tolerable good poetical productions, because he was born to poetry, was not altogether unworthy an honourable notice being taken of the loss we had sustained by his death, and of the accident to which this had been owing.---But, as, from the context of the same *account*, it is more than evident this was but the least object of the pamphlet, and served only as a basis, on which a much dearer one was to be established, we shall quit it without further animadversions, to pass to a more scrupulous examen of the second *query*.

Now, that the *ambicipity* of this second *query* exhibits a true and literal picture, in the first part, of what our writer would wish to be accounted for, and is far from being ; and, in the second, of his real character ; is what may easily be evinced from a fair examen of the context of his pamphlet, and a comparative view of the several parts which compose it. For, had his intentions

* This epithet is given on the confession of the author of the pamphlet, page 20, lines 9, 12, 13.

been as pure and as good as he wishes * us to mistake them, he would have expatiated only on the risk people run, the danger they expose themselves to, by their obstinacy, their ignorance, or their temerity, in imprudently using medicines, without being first perfectly well acquainted with the nature of their own particular case, and whether or not that medicine suits it:---Then, entering more minutely into particulars, all his endeavours would have been only to throw into the public's minds a certain shyness and diffidence, concerning their own judgment, of which the generality are but too apt to form a very favourable opinion; to point out how THE BEST of medicines may, by an improper *exhibition* (as he calls it) turn into a poison. Thus, fairly and honestly would he have acted, had he had the welfare of his fellow-creatures really, and as much, at heart as, by his affected repetitions, he seems desirous to make us believe he has; had, in short, his real concern been, only and solely, the enlightening of the rash, or, ignorant multitude.

And, indeed, with an example of the nature of that of Dr. GOLDSMITH, he had undoubtedly a very fair opportunity, “since,” could he have said, “a man endowed with natural abilities, a cultivated and adorned genius; supported by a judgment above the common; a man provided besides with a smattering of the art of physic; since such a man could thus misguide himself.”--- the simple and obvious conclusion comes of course,---“*a fortiori* must not expect to commit much grosser errors, in the same way, people of no educa-

* Throughout the whole pamphlet, but in plain words, page 11. line 19. and following till p. 12. l. 1—6. then p. 17. l. 10, 11, and following p. 18. l. 1—7. again p. 19. l. 14—17.

“ tion, no judgment, no discernment; who, because
 “ they hear that such a medicine is calculated to re-
 “ move such a disorder, take it in a hurry before they
 “ give themselves time to be fully, and properly, sa-
 “ tisfied whether, or not, they are attacked with that
 “ species, and upon a doubtful, or erroneous, symptom
 “ or indication?”

WITH such, or similar, reasoning, his pamphlet might have proved of utility to the community; nay of some fatality, perhaps too, to the *QUACKS and their MEDICINES*: For, the consequence might have been that these reasonings would have persuaded some people to do what he is so visibly bent *, and intent, to bring them to, *viz*: not to recur to the use of advertised medicines, “ *with-*
 “ *out the previous advice*” of regulars, which might have struck a bad blow enough † to those sorts of remedies and
 their

* All through the whole pamphlet, but especially page 10, line 2; page 11, line 12, 13, and 14.

† Were the *advertised medicines* to be taken but upon the advice of a member of the FACULTY, God knows how few would be taken, if even their virtues were proved to be never so good, their administration never so safe! So far is our FACULTY, in that respect, different from that of FRANCE! There, for an example, you see the *Quack-medicine* of a KEYSER has had the fairest play. A Marshal of France (Duke of Biron) names a particular set of physicians and surgeons, of the most eminent reputation and acknowledged abilities, to inspect two different, and successive, courses of treatment, for the Venereal disease, performed on *twenty* soldiers selected, and examined, among the most infected ones of his regiment, to try the merit of that medicine. And, these honest and generous REGULARS, with a candour which does them the greatest honour and credit, (and unexampled among Us) give their verdict in favour of the medicine and its author. They go farther; they acknowledge its high superiority over the old accustomed practice of salivation, avow its safety, and declare it infinitely preferable.—That is not all. An hospital is erected, afterwards, by the same noble colonel, at his own private expence, for the future, and constant, treatment of his own soldiers. There, he permits, however, others also to be treated, when the nature of their case is such as promise a stronger elucidation of the intrinsical merit, or yet undiscovered *peccatum*, of the medicine. But, this is done always under the eyes of
 inspectors

their proprietors.---But, by the step he has taken, he has totally missed his aim; by his unskilfulness he has struck no blow at all, except against himself, and against his brethren. He has only discovered the vile principle of animosity and vengeance by which he was actuated, the infamous source whence spring all his declamations, and the old rancor of those of his profession against our remedies, without bringing out one single good, and sensible argument to serve his and their own cause.

THEREFORE, with that impatience which an old gossip of a woman discovers to unburden her heart, to every creature she meets, of the secret intrusted her not an hour before, our Author, not knowing how to make us find out what he thinks to have so cunningly, so artfully, so archly wrapt up and concealed under the veil of candour and disinterestedness, and dreading nothing so much but that the dulness of the understanding of his readers who, he is very sensible, cannot all be blessed with the “*genuine*” * and penetrating “*wit*” of his “*late † respected and ingenious friend Dr.*

inspectors of the first characters, of inspectors used to a contrary practice, and eminent in that practice; and always their certificate is favourable.—At last, the government itself takes cognizance of the affair. By the King's order, the remedy is analyzed, under the inspection of his first physician and surgeon, and in the presence of the ACADEMY OF SCIENCES; by other colleges of physic of repute in the kingdom, the same is also done; and all the joint reports concur in favouring the remedy and giving it the greatest character. And the whole ends by *His Most Christian Majesty* giving a pension of five hundred pounds sterling (*ten thousand French livres*) a year to the author, as an annuity for his life, besides the loan of fifty thousand English crowns (one hundred thousand French half-crowns, or, fifteen thousand pounds of English money) to the same, for the discovery, of his secret and a copy of his RECEIPT.—What a generosity of proceedings in those gentlemen of the FACULTY in FRANCE! And, what an invidious soul! What a degrading, what a disgracing, conduct shines forth in ours! Shameful is the comparison odious infamous!

* Page 20, line 18.

† Page 21, line 3.

“GOLDSMITH,” should make them misapprehend his real intention, an *Appendix* is added to the famous Pamphlet which was to bring in, by the “profits * of” its “publication”, such immense sums of money, for the support of the much talked of “institution †, the design “of which” had been “favoured with his” (deceased friend’s “approbation”. It is in that *Appendix* we see at last the bung of the deep sink, taken out, and the black envenomed gall of spite and malevolence starting up, and forcing its way with impetuosity, to roll in large streams through the channel of three supposed letters which he addresses to himself under the fictitious names of *Meanwell*, *a Friend to the Public*, and *a Friend to Humanity*. In the first of these letters, the poison is lanced against ‡ *James’s Fever Powder*, only, and the person who *has been employed for many years to make it*. In the second, after great encomiums (*asinus asinum semper fricat*) passed upon him for “the great caution § “and moderation with which” he had spoken “of that “celebrated Powder”, &c. the thunder is heard once more to growl, and the flash falls at last on “all the “powerful || medicines” in general, and without exception, for “the horrid deeds done” by them “in the “dark”.

Now, therefore, to come to the point at once, what is then that so heinous quality which is reproached to most of *the advertised medicines*?---What! To be potent?---That is precisely, in my opinion, what makes their merit, what constitutes their very perfection.---To kill, *sometimes*, if administered untimely, injudici-

* Page 21, line 10.
§ Page 32, line 14.

† Ibid, line 11.
|| Page 33, line 3.

‡ Page 31, line 3.

ously, improperly in short?---I see nothing again in that but what is very natural, and what will establish and ascertain still better, and more strongly, the merit, virtue and efficacy of the medicine. For, if it had no power, no virtue, to do good, it could do no harm. To exclaim against the *potency* of a medicine, is then no better than it would be to exclaim against the SUN for having *that* of warming us, and procuring the fecundity of the earth. For, should it be proved, that it may scorch and burn to ashes, nay that it has positively scorched and burnt a plant confined under a small glass, and exposed to it at noon in a hot summer's day, what will it signify, if at the same time we know that, with a proper management, with a due admission of air, and addition of coverings to procure a shade, it would have vivified that same plant, promoted its vegetation, and brought it to maturity and perfection, which, without it, could have but languished, gradually decayed and died at last? All the errors which a foolish prentice-boy, or even his master in a fit of drunkenness, might commit by an injudicious management of the SUN, could never have induced a MILLAR, or persuade a KENNEDY and LEE, a MALCOM or an ABERCROMBIE, to write against it, and endeavour to drive it out of their *nurseries*, and their *hot* or *green-houses*; nor prevent their calling it into the assistance of their *melons* and *cucumber-beds*. Though it might very likely inspire that frantic zeal to one of their journey-men, just set up for himself in some dark corner, and spending his days in raising *turneps* and *potatoes*,

To exclaim then, I say, against a medicine, because one, two, three, or twenty people may have died by an injudicious, an irrational administration of it, and to make that a cause of disparagement against it, a reason
why

why it should be suppressed, is then again as absurd as the former. We might, with as much propriety, exclaim against a pump, because a man, raving mad with a high fever, after having deceived his nurse and all his attendants, shall have run down the yard, drunk of it, and killed himself by it. A great many drown themselves every day in a fit of despair, or by accident, in the river THAMES. Why do not, then, those scrupulous, and so highly benevolent, scrutators of good and evil, offer likewise to remove it from this metropolis? Why do they not attempt, in some fine piece of oratory, to make it the standard criterion of a well-regulated government not to admit, or allow, a drop of water in its department, and to prove, by the best reasonings, that it is highly detrimental to good policy, on account of the dangerous consequences resulting from it, and the *horrid deeds it gives room to be committed in the dark*, in short the very many accidents of all sorts which result from it.---Laughable, indeed!---At that rate we should soon find ourselves reduced to the same degree of real distress and misery, to which that man was once, who could not touch any thing but it was converted into gold, and starved. For, that thing is not, and never was yet, created, an excessive, ill-judged, or, injudicious use of which has, or had not, (as I say, page 53 of this Pamphlet) the power to kill us. I have known a young girl of eighteen years old who, in the time of plumbs, had eaten such a quantity of them in one day, (of which she had likewise swallowed every one of the stones, for fear of the people where she lived perceiving she had robbed them of those plumbs) that she was very near losing her life by it. Another, of about nine or ten years of age, to whom a bag of Spanish nuts had been made a present of, concealed herself in a garret for a whole day, except at meal-times when she made her appearance,

pearance, and pretended she was not hungry and could not eat; and, between those meals, never ceased to hammer and crack her nuts, and eat them, till she had made an end of them; and the next day she was a dying, and would have died, indeed, had not a great deal of pains been taken about her, which, with the assistance of her youth and good constitution, saved her at last. Thousands of examples of all sorts might be brought to shew that an abuse of the most innocent things (*in se* innocent and harmless) is rank poison.

Now, it is acknowledged by the author of the *Account of Dr. GOLDSMITH's* death that “*from a proper ** “*and skilful exhibition of Dr. James's Powders † much good* “*has arisen, in many cases of fevers;*” and a little farther, that “*the practice ‡ of Dr. James's himself*” was never to administer “*his fever-powders*” but with “*great* “*caution and circumspection, and*” to desist “*from the* “*exhibition of them, when he*” found “*them not operate in* “*the manner he wished or expected.*” Is not this the greatest encomium which can be passed both on the medicine and its author? And is not this the case with all the best medicines whatever, whether of the preparation of the REGULARS, or of that of the IR-regulars? Is not this what I have positively said, repeated and insisted upon, most strongly, most strenuously, all along in this work, viz: that OUR (the QUACKS') MEDICINES require a skilful and judicious administration? And, as I said openly in the note, page 98 and 99, that *to produce a cure, a medicine ought to be adapted to the nature of the constitution of the patient, as much as, to procure the nourishment of the body, the aliments ought to be adapted to that same con-*

* Page 9, line 16 and following.

† Dr. James's Powder is an Antimonial and Mercurial preparation.

‡ Page 10, line 5 and following.

stitution, is not that maxim favourable to, and concordant with, Dr. JAMES's own practice, who used to desist administering his *powders* when he found they did not operate *as he wished or expected*? And does it not prove that, when any of OUR most disparaged medicines are taken with prudence, and administered with caution, no harm ought to be expected, or feared, nor possibly can ensue, from them, more than from any other (sent from the shops and ordered by a regular-bred Doctor) which shall be used with the same circumspection: in short, that it will do no more hurt than bread, soup, pudding, broth, or any such, or similar, innocent food whatever, taken in moderation.

THE conclusion of all this, therefore, is that the death of Dr. GOLDSMITH, owing to an undeniable and demonstrated injudicious use of Dr. JAMES's *Fever-powders*, shews only, to a demonstration also, the *little sense and judgment* there was left, at that moment, in the poor head of that *great man*, once "*bred * a physician*," since "*absorbed † by polite literature*" and then "*taken ‡ ill*", on a sudden by a head-ach! And that his apothecary had not much more about himself than the Doctor, both for suffering him to take the powders at first, and since for making such a rout about them, and the death of his friend.

AND, indeed, who could restrain being incensed at such a heap of absurdities as he accumulates one over another! What! because a musquet has done never so horrible a mischief in the hands of a child, or a madman, is it a reason why an act of parliament should be

* Page 20, line 9.

† Ibid, line 12.

‡ Page 1, line 6.

brought to forbid the manufacturing, or importing, of them in the kingdom, as we were once fools enough to do, with respect to that *wicked weed* the Hop, because it made them drunken who drank beer wherein there was any?--There are not in the Universe *two constitutions* alike, nor *two cases* of disorder alike; no more than there are two faces alike, two drops of water alike, or two drachms (even of the same stuff) alike; should these be so scrupulously, so attentively weighed, in the same scale, with the same weights, and by the most accurate mathematician. Therefore, as I have said it already, every thing, food, pleasure, exercise, drink, diet, medicine, &c, ought all equally to be adapted to every single subject. Such is the meaning of the *prudent and judicious administration* so much recommended, and so much insisted upon, in matters of medicine. It is then in other words nothing but a sagacious increase or decrease, a prudent and *à-propos* desistance and suppression of the doses, derived from a watchful attention on the effects they produce, which effects, none but fools can misjudge; especially, when directions are so plainly given, as they generally are. But, the absurdity of people, against which never enough can be said, leads them to make this reasoning by themselves, *viz.* if *one grain* of such a thing does so much good, why! sure *TWO GRAINS* must do a *vast deal* more! And it is that *additional* grain precisely which kills them.---My own medicine has not, hitherto, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, done the least harm to any one individual. I would not, however, be the husband of the woman who would swallow one bottle of it at one draught in the morning; for, I think I should run a great risk of being a widower in the evening. And, though I may, with advantage to my health, drink every day my six-penny worth of rum and water, or brandy and water, I would not be seized with the phrenzy of drinking a bottle of either of these

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spirits

spirits to quench my thirst; for, I fancy I should never be tempted to drink another, or any thing else, indeed, afterwards.

BUT, the promoter of the famous *Institution for the recovery of drowned people*, understands nothing of all this, and will not absolutely have it so. And, because *ten ounces* of an *advertised medicine* cannot be taken at once, without cause and reason, with as much safety as *one grain*, when the case exists in which it will do good, that medicine is to be discountenanced, nay discarded, rejected, totally suppressed. Then, indeed, if that be the case, let him shut up his own shop, and all his brethren do the same: for; I am sure, and both he and they know it equally well, there is not one single drug in it, but what will produce the same effect.

AFTER all, let it be well understood, I mean not here, nor would I be thought ever to have meant it, in any part of this work, to take indiscriminately the part of every foolish advertised medicine which comes in the head of any ignorant cobbler, or country horse-doctor, &c, &c, nor to defend thousands of lies, and impositions, propagated daily, such as POWERFUL EXTRACTS, *which EXTRICATE, or take, the Mercury out of the BLOOD and BONES, in an EASY WAY . . . or, MACHINES of curious and new invention EFFECTUALLY to EXTRACT Mercury out of the body, &c, &c*, impostures, indeed, of such a nature as to fall as much under the cognizance and jurisdiction of the civil magistrate of Bow-street, as those of the conjuror of the Old-Baily.---Whatever I have said, therefore, on the subject, in defence of *Quacks and their Medicines*, must always be construed in favour of those accredited ones, the merit of which is sufficiently ascertained, from their long standing, or, the origin of which is well known to be owing to some eminent personage in
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the Pharmaceutical art. As for the others, they are not worth our notice or attention, nor the time and paper which would be employed in the confuting of them. ---If so, some perhaps will say, a little time and paper should be spared, however, and would not be ill bestowed, in preventing the danger to which the propagation of such impostures might expose people's lives, was not a check put to their spreading as they do by means of advertisements. But, to that I answer, that, as *eight or nine * hundred pounds* a year are the least sum a medicine can cost to its proprietor, to be advertised (and yet but indifferently) all over England, that is to say in this metropolis's, and the country, papers; and that, to be well advertised every day, it costs, at least, *fifteen hundred pounds* every twelve calendar months, it is not difficult to conceive; and remain convinced at the same time, that a *bad*, an *insignificant*, or a *dangerous* medicine, can never stand, many years, such an expence, for two obvious, and very strong, reasons.---The proprietor of that medicine is a man of fortune, or, he is not. If he is a man of fortune; it can be but a small one; that is to say such as its master wants to put out at the best advantage, as not being sufficient, as it is, to keep him in a genteel character all the time he is likely to live; for, a man of real, large and independent fortune, would not submit to the trouble of becoming a wholesale, or retail, dealer in *Quack-medicines*.---If he is a man of no fortune

* On which, upon an average, sometimes one *third*, but more often one *half*, goes to the King as a duty.---If the advertisements run upon *six* shillings, the King's duty being only *two*, he receives no more than one *third*; so, that, upon *nine hundred pounds*, he has only *three*. But, if the advertisements run upon *four* shillings, which are the most common, it is evident the King has one *half*, which make *four hundred and fifty* pounds, out of *nine hundred*, but *seven hundred and fifty*, when *fifteen hundred pounds* are spent, in advertising a medicine in the three kingdoms, at *four* shillings each advertisement. What a vast amount must the King's revenue come to, from the *Quack-Medicines* only!

at all, then he must depend upon the produce of the very medicine itself, to feed the papers with a proper number of advertisements, in order to extend the fame of that medicine, and increase its sale. Now, suppose the medicine to be a bad one. It is evident that no attestations can be obtained of its good effects : no recommendation will be given, by the last who tried it, to his friend, to his neighbour, labouring under the same pains, as himself. Each medicine which is sold, is then sold for the first time to one who tries it only in a fit of despair, without any authority, or previous example to induce him, without other reason but his present anguish ; and, that essay proving ineffectual, he does not try a second. *Therefore*, in the first case, the little fortune of the one, soon exhausted, for want of a return, obliges him to give up the advertising, after a very short time ; and the other, for want of funds, is obliged to drop it, still sooner, on the very same account. *Therefore*, the consequence now is, that no medicine, but what can and must prove an excessive good one indeed, and what is attended with very great success, and a very great number of them, will ever bring such a sum back to its proprietor, as will enable him to advertise it properly during a long course of years, and procure him enough *besides*, to make him think it worth his while to follow that profession, and give his time, his attention, and his labour to it. That observation will always be then a sure and safe criterion, by means of which, without any further enquiry, about the character of a medicine, the PUBLIC may be able to judge of the degree of merit it is possessed of, and the degree of confidence it deserves from him : but not, it is true, of the various cases in which it is, or is not, applicable ; for, that is another part.--- See what I say to that purpose, at the bottom of page 46 of this pamphlet.

NEITHER

NEITHER did I mean, by handling so severely as I have done, my little brother of the Strand, on the absurdities of his own Pamphlet, to assert that there is any one medicine in the world which can be applied as a general specific, or a sure and *never-failing* remedy in all cases and constitutions. *Therefore*, I could not mean to insinuate, against all sense and reason, that Dr. JAMES's *Powders*, in particular, will do wonders in all sorts of fevers, and in all stages of that disorder, indiscriminately and without any further consideration. For, if they arise from a stoppage; surely, it must first be removed: if from bad humours; undoubtedly, they must previously be corrected: and so forth. *Therefore*, I will not deny (and, as I proved it before, that is to say in the note, page 98 and 99 of this work, without its being in any wise discreditable to those same powders) that to them the death of Dr. GOLDSMITH may very well be imputed; but, that, at the same time, to my *illustrious* little brother's conscience it ought intirely to be laid, as having had it in his power to prevent it, and not done it.--- In point of law, accessories are deemed principles: *Atqui*, he was an accessory, and a knowing one; *Ergo* I know that page 27, line 14, of the already mentioned *account*, &c, it appears he has, before now, been attacked with some similar reproaches, as he seems to take notice of them, and attempt to answer them: but, very insignificantly, indeed, does he do it. And, I repeat it, he must accuse no one else but himself positively for the Doctor, his most (with all the epithets of endearment, and admiration, which he can think of, or the best *Gradus ad Parnassum* can afford him) friend's death. For, had I been in his place, instead of exhausting my lungs in “endeavouring to reason * medically

* Page 2, line 7.

† Page 20, line 10.

“ *with him,*” or, “ *to converse † with him on the subject*” “ *of his disorder in a medical manner*” and thus to spend my time in contradicting him, teasing him, and reasoning with a man who, by his obstinacy, gave already sufficient ground to suspect him of not being quite *compos mentis*, (as harsh as this expression may appear to some I maintain Dr. GOLDSMITH was not rightly in his senses, when he was thus arguing with his apothecary,) I declare I would have humoured him, given him his way, and talked to him just in his own strain, first to compose him; then retired to my shop and substituted some harmless, innocent, powder, somewhat like to that of Dr. JAMES’s in appearance, but more to the purpose of his disorder, and sent it him. Then, when he had been returned to his senses again, I should have acquainted him with the innocent trick, and reasoned upon the propriety, or impropriety, of those powders relatively to the case he was in. And I am sure, my dear, my great, my respected, my valuable, my ingenious, &c, friend, would have given me his thanks for it; to which also would, undoubtedly, have been added those of ALL THE WORLD besides, which would have made me deemed another little RADCLIFE for the skill, address and art I should have shewn to preserve a *health and life of such * consequence to society*. A feather capable to reflect no small lustre, I take it, to the cap of a man already so proud of being at the head of the famous *institution for the resurrection of the dead!* I think this might have done as well as the track which the little apothecary has followed. What think ye of it yourself, BROTHER . . ?

I BEGIN, notwithstanding, to be afraid, at last, my little brother’s bile may be, by this time, quite roused

* Account page 3. line 3—4. and page 9. line 3.

to its zenith. And, indeed, I should not be surpris'd at it : for, I confess I have not spared him much, whenever I could lay hold of him with any propriety. In doing which, I think I was founded ; since that *able*, that *benevolent*, that *humane*, that *virtuous* *; &c, &c, &c, gentleman has thought himself so much above the scourge of criticism, on account of his high connexions with people of letters, as to think he could assume the despotical rod of censure, and, triumphant, drive every thing trembling before him, which had but the look of a QUACK or an EMPIRICK. The papers, for these twelve months, and upwards, have been pestered with nothing so much as fulsome compliments of low and servile adulation, which he gets inserted, at his own expence, as addressed to himself, or written concerning him, under the fictitious names of *Meanwell*, *a Friend to the public*, *a Friend to humanity*, *Advise*, *Public-applause*, and what not. Letters, all so coarsely manufactured that, without consulting the seven stars, any one may judge from what quarter they come, and that his own ink, pen, paper and desk (if not even something more besides) have each given their respective assistance in the composition. I should not perhaps have much troubled my head about him, nor his publications, had I not been determin'd to shew him that he is not to expect the same meekness from all those he pleases to lay under his *ferula* ; and he must expect, from ME at least, if I cannot answer for any other, as warm a reception as his attacks shall provoke : and had not some liberties been taken with my name, by a certain unknown sham *Advise*, in a letter published under that name, in the MORNING-POST of *Thursday*

* All expressions drawn from the many sublime qualities with which he is flattered in the letters addressed to him, or in which his name is brought.

the 28th of December, 1775, No. 990, of which the following is a true and faithful copy.

For the MORNING-POST.

TO a CERTAIN APOTHECARY.

“ YOUR spleen and rancour against a celebrated Fever
 “ Powder is by no means justifiable; are there not
 “ Norris’s Antimonial Drops, SPILSBURY’S DROPS,
 “ and almost a thousand other quack medicines, offered
 “ to the public? and none * merits your attention but a
 “ medicine of established reputation, and which it is
 “ impossible for you to lessen in the public esteem.

“ You are by all accounts I can learn, a very bene-
 “ volent man, and your abilities as an apothecary are
 “ also universally allowed: when so much is granted
 “ you by the public, would it not redound more to your
 “ honour to turn your thoughts to some other points of
 “ medicine, than by a second publication to stand forth
 “ as an opponent to Dr. James’s Powder? Indeed, Sir,
 “ it favours too much of ill-nature, pettishness, and
 “ revenge.

“ THE writer neither knows Dr. James, the vender
 “ of his powder, nor you, but only throws out a hint
 “ for you to reflect upon, and shall judge of your real
 “ disposition by your future conduct, and which ever
 “ way that turns you shall hear again from

Dec. 24, 1775.

“ ADVISE.”

N. B. *Five Shillings* were actually paid to the Printer of the *Morning-Post* for the insertion of the above letter; it is a matter of fact.

* *None merits*, very elegant, and grammatical! The spelling, punctuation, capitals, &c, are strictly imitated and copied from the News-paper; as quotations should always be made.

It is difficult for me to judge from what side that letter came to the papers ; and, though I made all possible inquiry, I own I could get no satisfactory intelligence on that head. But, a few days after, I received, under a cover, by the *penny-post*, and dated from *Bath*, another letter, addressed to the printer of the same paper, which contained as full a vindication of my character, by an unknown hand, as I could have wished to obtain from any one. However, I did not chuse, at the time, to send it ; because I always scorned all news-paper war, though dignified by this high name, as I do a *boxing* between two black-guards, in the public streets. Besides, I was, at that very juncture, engaged in the publication of the following pamphlet, which I expected to come out so soon as towards the middle of January following, had not, as I mentioned it in the beginning of this PREFACE, an unforeseen accident prevented it ; and I had rather reserve it to make it appear along with it. Therefore, here it is *verbatim*, just as it came to my hands.

TO ADVISE.

*On the Subject of his Letter inserted in the MORNING-POST
of Thursday, December 28, 1775.*

“ In addressing you, Mr. ADVISE, I must own I am
 “ rather at a loss : for, I don’t know very well in what
 “ light to consider you, whether as the hireling of H---s
 “ or as that of Dr. *James* ? As you sing, on the same
 “ high key, the praises of the two adversaries, the one
 “ of whom you would be believed to attack, and the
 “ other to defend ; which of them has in reality launched
 “ you to bark thus in his favour, and deter the other, is
 “ somewhat difficult to distinguish.---However, after a
 “ little pause, I think I have you now, and may let my
 “ judgment incline on one side. I think, I may, safely
 “ enough, look upon you as the bully of Dr. *James*, or his
 “ agent. My reason for so thinking, is your endeavouring
 “ to turn the little insignificant Apothecary’s rancour upon
 “ two preys, which you seem to have picked out for him as
 “ proper bits to assuage his rage, and which you offer him
 “ with

“ with intent that, by means of this *double* portion,
 “ he might be prevailed upon to spare, and even relin-
 “ quish totally, that *one* alone he seemed to have fixed
 “ upon. One would imagine, at your behaviour, your
 “ fright had presented you the animal as a huge mon-
 “ ster, whose bloody jaws you fancied to see already
 “ gormandizing, before-hand, on the fore-relish of the
 “ prey he longed to devour. And, to soothe him, you
 “ stroke again the beast over, with the velvet-paw of
 “ fulsome and absurd adulation.---This is what betrays
 “ absolutely both you and your abettors. Indeed I should
 “ never have suspected the proprietors of Dr. *James’s pow-*
 “ *der* capable of rendering themselves guilty of so much pu-
 “ sillanimity and meanness at the time. They must be very
 “ *pusillanimous* to betray such symptoms of fear, at a
 “ poor insignificant little whelp yelping at them ; and
 “ they must be very *mean* to think of saving themselves
 “ by tendering him *two* other victims to dart his venom
 “ upon, and satisfy his fury, while they stand so firm,
 “ as they say, in the public esteem ; and while the two
 “ objects, they want to use as shields, stand, if I mis-
 “ take not, in no worse light themselves in the eyes of
 “ the same public.---As for my part, though I never
 “ saw Mr. SPILSBURY nor Dr. NORRIS, having not
 “ been in London for these ten years past last August, I
 “ nevertheless confess myself a patient of the former,
 “ and acknowledge to be under the greatest obligations
 “ to him for the benefit I received, last year, from
 “ his drops, in an old inveterate gout, of near fifteen
 “ years standing, which had deprived me of the use of
 “ almost all my limbs. God be praised, I now can take,
 “ without crutches, an agreeable morning’s walk all
 “ over my parks, which I had not done for five years
 “ before : and, having already missed, since my cure,
 “ two of the usual periodical fits I was accustomed to,
 “ I hope, through the exercise I regularly take, and
 “ the temperance I faithfully observe, according to his
 “ pre-

“ precepts, to have no more of those *unwelcome visitors*,
 “ as he calls them.---Therefore, unfolicited by, and
 “ unknown to, him, (since I did not even buy his drops
 “ from him, but only from his agents in this part of
 “ the world) I thought it a duty, incumbent on me, to
 “ rise and defend a man, who, besides the goodness of
 “ the medicine he sells, in such cases as he recommends
 “ it for, has again, to intitle him to the favour and
 “ esteem of the public equitable in general, and of every
 “ individual in particular, the qualifications the most
 “ endearing, viz. humanity, generosity, and tender
 “ feelings, breathing in every advertisement. And to
 “ the support of the prejudice he has inspired me with
 “ in his favour, I am happy to hear, from good au-
 “ thority, that he has positively established upon the
 “ best principles, at his own laboratory, and at his sole
 “ expence, a *dispensary* for the poor, where, when pro-
 “ perly recommended, either by their parishes, or some
 “ persons of consideration, they receive the full benefit
 “ of his medicine *gratis*, till they are perfectly cured.---
 “ Such deeds alone are sufficient in my opinion (which,
 “ I hope, will be that of every thinking, honest and
 “ humane being) to secure him for ever the esteem of
 “ the whole nation, and procure him an encouragement
 “ suitable to his deserts.---All my wish now is, for the
 “ honour of Dr. *Norris*, that some of his patients,
 “ moved with the same sentiments of equity as I am,
 “ should do him the same justice I have done Mr. SPILS-
 “ BURY: and that Dr. *James*, or his agents, for their
 “ own credit and honour, should disavow publicly hav-
 “ ing any concern with you, or in the composing of so
 “ scandalous a letter, which must be looked upon as that
 “ of a knave and a coward, from whatever quarter it
 “ came.

“ That in future ADVISE be better ADVISED is also
 “ another wish of

Bath, December 30th, 1775.

ADVISER.”

By the context of the above letter, whose author I candidly own I could not produce, it appears plainly his suspicion falls on the proprietors of *James's powders*, and that he considers them as concealed under the name of ADVISE. As for my part, I was not of the same opinion; and, even now, I rather incline still to think Mr. ADVISE, like many others of his brethren, has sprung from the brain of the *certain* APOTHECARY; as it has been observed, by the greatest part of news-paper readers, that it is his general custom, whenever he is brewing something for publication, to get it preceded by some such similar hint in the news-papers; that it might appear as if he had but yielded to the wishes of the public; and then to get again those publications followed by the greatest encomiums from several parts, and under a multitude of fictitious names, as if all the world was prostrated at his knees to acknowledge their * “*inexpressible satisfaction*” of his “*very humane and virtuous endeavours*,” and give him “*their thanks for*” his industrious “*and indefatigable efforts* TO RESTORE MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE,” &c. &c. &c. If such proceedings are not *sterling QUACKISMS*, in the strictest sense of the word, and prove not the propriety of the definition of the term QUACK, given in the note of the first page of this work, I do not, upon my word, know what may be deemed such, and must confess, I understand not common English.

But, to shew *Public Applause*, that I look upon him as no better than a dunce and a blockhead, and that we are better acquainted than he thinks with the literary affairs of the world, I would not miss this opportunity to observe here, *en passant*, that if Mr. WESLEY’s “*unconstitutional principles*,” as well as “*unhermantic PRIMITIVE PHYSIC*, *have been*” no more “*sufficiently de-*

* Whatever is inserted here between turned-comas is extracted from a letter signed *Public Applause*, in the GAZETTEER of Friday, June 7th, 1776. No. 14,775.

“*feated*,” the first by the “*virtuous patriots*,” and the second by the Certain APOTHECARY’s “*very able and truly learned refutation*” than “*his unscriptural doctrines by some worthy members of the church of England*,” they have met with a very poor discomfiture, indeed ! For, the learned will always pay to Mr. WESLEY’s PIETAS OXONIENSIS that due compliment of acknowledging it as the production of the true scholar, the polite gentleman, and the sincere christian ; and they would be very sorry at the same time, I believe, to have it thought by the world, that all the best arguments which the most *worthy members of the church of England* could urge against him or his performance, were concentrated in the *verba et voces, prætereaque nihil* of that flat and insipid pretended answer of the *beau N---*l who was at that time the public Orator of a certain University. If that answer is what *Public Applause* means as the *sufficient defeat* of Mr. WESLEY’s *unscriptural doctrines*, he is most daringly imposing upon the credulity of such as are not acquainted with the facts of those times, or he LIES, himself, indeed, under a very great and most egregious mistake ; in whichever case I must beg leave to tell him, in the name of that respectable PUBLIC, from whom he wishes us to think he derives his office and commission, that he is no more calculated to act in the character of PUBLIC APPLAUSE than N---Pietas Oxoniensis, in which the flow of language, the elegance and purity of style, and harmony of the periods, characterise the fine writer, as well as the man of *belles-lettres* : and that in less than two months this work went through

through five or six editions, while four or five months elapsed before the heavy, clumsy, and elaborately empty, answer of the *Public Orator* came out, clumpeting like upon crutches, printed in large types and wide margins, to make it appear (*true quackism*) more bulky than the work itself it was intended to annihilate; and that, to make this answer (other *quackish* trick) enjoy the merit only of a second edition, in the space of two or three months, one good half of the first was I am told cancelled and destroyed to make room for that second; three parts of which, upon a push, might, perhaps, now be found at the printer's warehouse, unless it has undergone the same fate as the first, and been by its own author offered as a sacrifice to VULCAN.

Whenever therefore the *certain* APOTHECARY makes henceforth choice * of new *hirelings* to break his own head with the perfuming pan, I hope this anecdote will be a warning to him, to teach him how to chuse such as are better acquainted with the anecdotes of their times, and the particulars of what they are advancing in their *applauses*, lest he should lose, as in this case, all the advantages he expects to derive from their enthusiastically worked up arguments.

This same *Public applause* congratulates again his *virtuous* IDOL upon his “*successful beginning towards the* “*very requisite reformation of true medical knowledge, &c*”. reflections as absurd, expressions as ridiculous as the authors from whose pens they proceed; and to which

* Perhaps some people, as well as himself, will be of opinion that a more lucky choice of subjects to exercise his talents upon, might as well, and with no less propriety, be recommended to him also, in future. In which, how far the advice might be right, I will not pretend to be a judge: but, I believe too that, if the name of GOLDSMITH, after the man was dead, proved to this mighty *Goliath* so hard and fatal a stock to stumble upon; it is natural enough to expect he will take heed from it, how he meddles another time with a GOLDSMITH again, were ever another to fall in his way; and especially if the second should happen to be a *living-one*.

I shall oppose no answer of my own to confute them, as it would, of course, be suspected of partiality; but repeat only, as much more powerful and weighty, what I find in a very eminent publication intituled *Observations * on the Duties of a Physician, and on the method of prosecuting enquiries in Philosophy*. The author, who, as I learn by the advertisement prefixed at the head of the work, was a *medical professor not long ago in one of the universities of a neighbouring kingdom* † expresses himself thus p. 169.---“ But not to insist further on arguments that
 “ shew, that no considerable improvement in the art of
 “ medicine can be expected from physicians, while they
 “ are on the present footing. I shall only observe as a
 “ fact, that it appears from the history of medicine, that
 “ the improvements in it were seldom owing to those
 “ physicians who valued themselves upon being re-
 “ gular, systematic, rational practitioners; nay, what
 “ is more extraordinary, they have been often opposed
 “ by them with great keenness and acrimony, and sel-
 “ dom adopted till after a very long struggle. We
 “ could give instances of this, in many of the improve-
 “ ments of modern practice, particularly in the case of
 “ blisters, opiates, Peruvian-bark, antimony, mercury,
 “ and all the powerful chemical remedies; the inven-
 “ tors or introducers of these, from the days of Para-
 “ celsus down to Dr. Ward, have been held by the fa-
 “ culty in contempt and detestation. The discoveries
 “ of those men who were not regular physicians, have not
 “ been examined with that candid impartiality, which
 “ their importance and success required: yet from such
 “ very useful discoveries may sometimes be expected.
 “ &c. &c.”

* This anonymous but elegant performance, divided into *two lectures*, is printed for CADELL in the Strand, 1770.

† IRELAND.

IT is, notwithstanding, a truly regular-bred physician who speaks, in so strong a manner, in favour of QUACKS and their MEDICINES. True it is, that a little farther he passes also a due and rational censure on some “*ignorant, careless and wrong-headed*” ones, “*who profit but little in proportion to what might be expected from so very extensive a practice*” as they have. But, I hope I have so sufficiently declared in this PREFACE that such are not those I mean to defend by this publication, that I may not fear to be taxed with infidelity, in not copying further down from my quoted author; as I myself entertain the same opinion of those *Patence’s* with which the world abounds, and coincide perfectly with him in his sentiments of the many lies they propagate about their extraordinary talents and skill. Therefore, I shall conclude this *Preface* of mine by the following words from that of the celebrated Dr. STROTHER which stands at the head of his *Practical Observations*, printed London 1729, page xxviii. on the *Epidemical Fever*, which reigned in the beginning of this Century.---“*If the art of physic is to be advanced, no discouragements ought to be given to the undertakers thereof; let each person of industry draw out his scheme, if it fails, he has at least shewn his good will, and prevents any other from steering in that road; but if he succeeds, he merits glory and thanks.*”

As for my part, I am far from thinking, like my sublime BROTHER QUACK of the Strand, that I deserve already that *glory* and those *thanks* Dr. STROTHER mentions. I am content if I may only be allowed the name and reputation of *striving* earnestly for them; and of being in the right road which, by a due continuance of attention to my present pursuits, and the profession I have embraced, may conduct me one day to obtain both, from the impartiality and candour of a just, discerning, and always equitable, PUBLIC.

July 22, 1776.



FREE THOUGHTS

ON

QUACKS

AND THEIR

MEDICINES.

SECTION I.

THE STATE OF THE QUESTION.

THAT a great deal had been already said, and still should continue to be every day repeated, against QUACKS, * EMPIRICKS, and *their* MEDICINES, is not so much to be won-

* QUACK and EMPIRICK are two words commonly used, which are found in every one's mouth, and often employed one for another; because their discriminative, and radical, meaning is not sufficiently known. I will, therefore, attempt to fix and establish it here.--- Doctor S. JOHNSON gives, at the word QUACK, the *three* following definitions, or rather interpretations, which,

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wondered at, as the silence it is generally observed these have obstinately kept on the subject.

in my opinion, coincide so perfectly with each other into one and the very same meaning and idea, that they may perfectly well be classed among those we call *distinctions without differences*. Here they are. "QUACK, *s.* [From the Verb.] 1, A boastful pretender to arts he does not understand. 2, A vain boastful pretender to physick; one who proclaims his own medical abilities in public places. 3, An artful tricking practitioner in physick."---To the first definition, he quotes *Felton*; to the second, *Addison*; and to the third, *Pope*.---I will pass to the same Lexicographer's definition of the word *Empirick*; then, resume.---"EMPIRICK, *s.* [εμπειρικος,] A trier or experimenter. Such persons as have no true knowledge of physical practice, but venture upon observation only."---To this definition, he quotes *Hooker*.---Now, I will offer my opinion of the true and literal meaning of each of these two words, and of the point of difference which characterises them. The above three definitions of the word QUACK, which, in fact, are but one, I consider as vastly stretched out, quite in the *outré*, and as being, in fact, rather the present, actual, falsified acceptation of the word, than its real, original, and first intended, meaning; which, according to me, is strictly speaking nothing else but a *preconiser*, a *publisher*, a *trumpeter*, an *advertiser*, and is formed by ονομασπια, (that is to say *imitation*) from the noise, or cry, which *ducks* make. Those creatures giving, by that sort of noise, and that perpetual repetition of the same cry, notice of their being in such a quarter, the imitative word *quack* has first jocularly, I suppose, and then ironically, been given to the *medicine-advertisers*; because, like those animals, they announce, publish, puff, and in short *quack-away* by advertisements, hand-bills, &c, the medicine they are possessed of. Hence *quacks* they are said, in other words *publishers*, *advertisers* and nothing more. This denomination, as we see, does not touch in the least their abilities or inabilities. How then can it imply a *boastful pretender to arts*

ject. Attacked with the most ungenerous, and, I dare to say it, fallacious arguments, woven

not understood by the DENOMINEE? How is it, and where does it appear again, that that *art* is *physick* in preference to any other art? Therefore I conclude, and I believe with propriety, that any advertiser whatever, either for *shoe-blackening, shirt-making, portrait-painting, French-teaching, dancing, &c, &c,* is in fact literally, strictly and positively, as much a *quack*, as he who advertises for remedies. The very first, and most eminent, member HIMSELF of the faculty, no sooner advertises a book of remedies, or strictures, considerations, essays, dissertations, aphorisms, &c, &c, &c, but HE becomes also a true QUACK, *ipso facto*, in the true, the literal, strict and full sense of the word, as well as THEY against whom he fulminates in it.

EMPIRICK, upon examination, will appear no less misrepresented than the other. *Εμπειρικος*, they say, is its radix.---True.---And *εμπειρικος* signifies, *qui solum ex experientiâ aliquid tractat*: that is to say, a man who practises from experiments only.---Very well.---Therefore, in my opinion, it is as much as to say a man who practises nothing but what he is sure to be good from authentic authority; and whose authority is what can never deceive, mislead or misguide him; what is always, at all times, and in all matters and cases, most surely and sacredly, what should *ever* SOLELY, be implicitly relied and confidently depended, upon, viz. EXPERIENCE and *repeated experience*. EMPIRICK is then, in short, the man who never administers a remedy to any one, without previously being unquestionably sure and convinced of its propriety and salutary effects in the case it is adapted to. Nor can I find, indeed, how to torture the Greek word, whence *Empirick* is drawn, so as to extort that cunning, artful, malicious, and designedly discrediting *inuendo*, commonly ascribed to it, that invidiously stretched-out acceptance of the vulgar, too rashly and unthinkingly adopted, and now authorised, by the sanction of our learned

woven with that skill and address which dazzles the generality of readers, little used to the
 finesses

Lexicographer, which makes it mean *a man who has no true knowledge of physical practice, but VENTURES upon observation only*.---Nay, I go farther, I find myself even sufficiently founded to pronounce there is positive inconsistency, glaring incompatibility, and downright contradiction in the copulation of the two words *ventures* and *observation*; which I prove thus. If the man administer nothing but what he has OBSERVED to be good, I maintain he VENTURES NOTHING. I say more, I declare he has greatly the advantage over the *regular-bred physician* whose business, character and profession are all theory, and, therefore, all *venturing*, in the strict and literal sense of the word. True it is, that this last *requires* superiority, sublimity, real transcendency of genius; abstract reasoning, and combinations in the mind, upon any new case, new accidents, new disorders, new chronical, or epidemical, diseases, &c, &c; whereas the other may be totally inept in all this, and unfit to state upon any other disorder whatever, besides that only and solely for which his remedy is calculated.---But, this is the very circumstance I wanted to prove, that it is therefore the very *regular-bred physician* himself, not the *Empirick*, who precisely is the *real trier*, the TRUE *experimenter*; while the other neither is, nor can possibly be called, *such*, since he practises nothing but *already long tried and experimented* remedies. Wherefore I go on, and insist again that a *truly learned regular-bred physician* (*rara avis!*) is the only one of course who MAY ERR as a man, (for *omnis homo mendax*) and the other CANNOT, he has it not in his power.---I would, therefore, be inclined humbly to recommend Doctor SAMUEL the correcting of this article in the next edition of his Dictionary. For *εμπειρικός*, EMPIRICK, is so far from meaning *trier* and *experimenter*, (words equal to, and synonymous with, *worker in the dark*, *uncertain*, and *ignorant*) that, on the contrary, it signifies positively quite the reverse in the Greek language, where it stands for *sciens*, *aptus*, *usu*, *praxi atquè experiētiâ peritus*; that is to say, knowing,

finesses of the art of Logic, they have been made an object of ridicule by some, and represented as the most dangerous sort of people by others; as a public nuisance, as a set of common empoisonners: and not one of them has had spirit enough to take up the pen in his own defence, as well as that of the fraternity. It is high time, therefore, this should be done: and, without boasting of more abilities for the task than my predecessors, or cotemporary fellows, of the Empirical College, I will, for the sake of TRUTH alone, take the liberty to offer here a few candid, ingenuous, and unadorned reflections, on the critical point which divides us from the self-calling regular-bred physicians, and examine whether or not we deserve the scurrility of their language in the cruel manner they exert it upon us.

knowing, able, learned, experimented by use and constant practice. Is not this, *to be SURE of what one does?* Who can, therefore, be more trusty now for a patient, more likely to comfort him, to revive and reanimate his dejected spirits, to dissipate at his approach the gloomy thought of a threatening dissolution, to remove the terrors of an advancing death, and recall the two greatest supports of the afflicted, and best assistants of the physicians, FAITH and HOPE? If you consult your own heart now, you will soon find there such answer as I can wish to hear, and which is the most obvious.

BUT,

BUT, before going any farther, it will not be much amiss, perhaps, to settle the reciprocal rights, privileges and pretensions of the contending parties. Our adversaries say that *Hypococrates* pronounces physick to be the noblest of all arts whatsoever. That it was formerly in such a repute, esteem and veneration, as to make the inventors, or improvers, of it be stiled *sons* and *hands* of *Gods*, and often considered as *Gods* themselves. All this is certainly true. Such was, indeed, the opinion of the inhabitants of this world in the first ages of it, when mankind, by the neglect of temperance and exercise, having begun to be the prey of various unknown and unusual pains, sufferings and miseries, obtained unexpectedly relief by the hands of some *few* adepts who administered them a *few* remedies which chance and accident had thrown in their way, and which their sagacity and discernment had pointed out to them how to apply. Nay, even among the Christians the same opinion nearly prevailed; since, as we find it in St. Augustin, * they thought the possessor of the art of physick must then be inspired. “ *Corporis medicina (si altius rerum origines*
“ *repetas) non invenitur undè ad homines*

* *De Civ. Dei.*

“*manare potuerit, nisi à Deo.*” Hence they conclude that THEY ALONE ought to be empowered with the administration of medicines, to the exclusion of any one else whatever, because they will be thought to have, at a great expence and cost, acquired great knowledge, skill and abilities, in the theoretical part of the art, in schools and universities. But if, to enhance the difficulty, superiority and sublimity of that very art, they think it necessary to alledge that *Esculapius*, the inventor of physick, never arrived before he died to the perfection of it; and that his successor *Hippocrates*, being himself come to a very old age, was not ashamed of confessing the same in an epistle to *Democritus*. If they are not against admitting likewise that, even now, it requires an infinite deal of pains, labour, expence, trials, experiments and time, before a man can be rightly, and duly, qualified for the task, for a very good reason they care not to mention, and which I will produce for them, viz. the field of diseases is now become so extensive, and so far beyond what it ever was before, that every one of them, singly considered, with its nature, causes, times, tendencies, symptoms, diagnostics and prognostics, &c, might perhaps well occupy the whole life of
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any man, and sometimes that of several men successively, before its proper, and truly efficacious, antidotes are found out and discovered. If all this, I say, be the case, does not this most evident conclusion result, that the man who turns * all his thoughts on the study of one sole disease, its cause, source, principle and antidote, and attends to no other whatever, is infinitely more likely to discover a true and efficacious remedy against it, than those who, forced to practise on a larger scale, cannot bestow a sufficient time upon any in particular, to investigate the true principles of them all, and apply the proper preservative to a threatening disorder, or restorative to a determined one? Is it not obvious that the possessor of a certain particular medicine against one single particular disorder and its kindred appendages, (or, as you may call it,

* It is to such highly meritorious dispositions, in the justly celebrated Doctor ARMSTRONG, of Soho-Square, we are every year indebted for the preservation of thousands of children, who, before him and the truly laudable institution of his DISPENSARY, used to fall a sacrifice to the ignorance and *ineptia* of their mothers and nurses, in the treating of the disorders incumbent to that tender age, in which, (especially among the lower class of people) the dear innocent creatures are left to the mercy of their erroneous directions, their absurd administration, to the evident danger of the poor infants' lives, and the decrease of the *human species*.

confaguine disorders) he who fabricates and prepares no other sort during all his life time, ought certainly to be more versed in the manutention, more exact, more scrupulous and more ready, in the preparation and administration of it; than those who, from morning to night, are continually employed in composing hundreds of various species, made up of many different, opposite and incompatible drugs, for various disorders, and in the greatest hurry, without being able to allow themselves the time of reflecting to avoid mistakes in the materials, and errors in the dosing, or in the mode of administering of them?

ON what principle, therefore, do the self-calling *regular-bred* physicians ground their pretended prerogatives, and their superiority over us *venders* of medicines? Did not that sublime art, they so much boast of, begin precisely in the very manner that we now do exercise it? What were in their times those famous physicians we find so honourably recorded in history? Were they *regular-bred* for treating of all sorts of known or unknown, possible and impossible disorders? Or, like us, were they merely and solely possessed each of some particular remedy against certain parti-

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cular diseases; which possession, originated from an accidental discovery, or observation and combination, and then properly applied, had rendered them renowned enough to make them be sent for, and unboundedly rewarded, when, luckily for them, the malady they knew how to cure befel some great personages of their times? Such, notwithstanding, was the case of *Philippus*, the physician of *Alexander*; that of *Timocleas*, and *Nicias*, who were those of *Pyrrhus*; such was that of *Dioscorides*, who was the physician of *Antony* and *Cleopatra*; such was in short that of *Archagatus*, the first alien who, on account of his reputation that way, was made free of Rome, &c, &c. Formerly, one single physician did not take upon himself, as they do now, to systematise and dissent boldly upon all sorts of disordered habits of the body; but, having made a serious study of one particular disorder and of the antidote against it, practised no other branch of the healing art.

IN its infancy, therefore, it results that physick was in its purer state. For, as there was no speculation yet, and as every medicine, which ever was then administered, was so upon sure grounds and an undoubted knowledge of its effects, so there were no risks run,
nor

nor experiments made, by the *sons of gods* of that period, as there is now by those of our days; and no one was by those *sacred hands* killed, as at present, *secundum artem*. It is to the corruption of the times, to the putrefaction of the principles of society, to the insatiable thirst after riches, to the rapacious hungriness, the ravenous greediness, the watchful voraciousness of the few cunning of all ages, in endeavouring to avail themselves of the dull and sleepy indolence of the ignorant multitude, that we are indebted for that craftiness which is now found reigning among the most useful branches of arts and sciences, of all kinds, and for the impenetrable veil of mystery with which their *first* possessors never fail to obscure them, as soon as they begin to be sensible of the extent of their utility.

Is it a generous, candid, and disinterested love of mankind, and the preservation of its members, as you affect to profess it by words, which induces *you*, gentlemen of the faculty, to decry “*all quacks, from Æsculapius to the present, either as ignorant, or self-convicted impostors, advertising daily lies, whether mounted on stages, or riding in chariots?*” Is it the true knowledge of the dignity of your profession, and a superiority of understanding in its

its practice, which make you rail so vehemently against that pretended "*evil spirit of quackery*," which, you say, "*is gone forth*," and "*has possessed all orders of men among us*," and which you would like "*to lay, if you could, together with every Demon of superstition and error, that*" you may thereby "*restore the world to truth and nature?*"—No, indeed.—No such purity of sentiments exists in you, more than in any other of the incorporated private companies. Lucre, gain, and profit, are the true and only motives which inspire you that flow of anathemas you bestow so lavishly upon us. The fear that the cure of diseases should become easy, and might be performed by every one at a small, or no expence, and thus oblige you to lay down *your own chariots*, erected on, and supported by, the credulity of the ignorant, though wealthy, multitude, is the reason why you foam in all your writings, your consultations, and private conversations, against the venders of medicines, ready prepared *to cure* what is not in your power even *to attempt attenuating*. Oh! *auri sacra fames! quid non mortalia pectora cogis?*

BUT let us examine, without partiality, the fact as it really stands. What are, strictly speaking, those advertised medicines? Are they

they a compound of horses dung and cows pifs; or, as the more polite, though no less contemptuous phrase, is, a mixture of brick dust and water, prepared by a parcel of dirty ignorant cobblers, scavengers, and chimney-sweepers, or something worse if possible, as some would insinuate it; and by them retailed to the public as a specific to operate wonders, and work miracles? NO: IT IS QUITE THE REVERSE.—First, they are mostly compositions which unite the *exterior* neatness and elegance, with the power, energy and efficacy *interiorly* concentrated. Secondly, they are the fruit of the labours, studies, and experience of some *really learned* physician of the so much boasted *regularly-bred* class; who, after having himself used and administered it a long while, with a never-failing success, at last *sometimes* gives it to a friend, or leaves it in his family; in either of which cases it generally becomes what is called a *family-receipt*, and often keeps so for the best part of a century, before it emerges into the world, and is advertised as a *nostrum* against those very disorders in particular, for the relief, attenuation, or radical cures, of which, they originally were calculated by their first inventors and fabricators. Such is, notwithstanding, in fact,

fact, the real origin of most of the advertised medicines which, at this present time, are in any repute.—Others, and many they are, originated from those venerable members of monasteries * who, far remote from the cares, the
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* Witness the famous ROGER BACON, an English Franciscan friar of the 13th century, distinguished, on account of his vast learning and deep penetration in astronomy, chymistry, mathematicks, &c, by the name of *Doctor Mirabilis*.---I have now in my possession a very old book, intituled *The Triumphant Chariot of Antimony*, written by one BASIL VALENTINE, a monk, of the order of St. Bennet, who, from the context of his treatise, appears whatever may be otherwise thought concerning his extravagant enthusiasm in favour of the *philosophical stone*, to have been a very great chymist.---The *bark*, the proper name of which is the *Peruvian-bark*, but better known to the public by that of *Jesuit's-bark*, is in fact owing for its discovery, to the society of that religious order, and was made by mere chance and accident. The story is, as well as I can remember, for I am obliged here to quote again from memory, (and a very treacherous one it is sometimes in matters of mere historical facts;) the story, I say, is, That one of them, who was ill of an ague, being dry, and near a pond, drank of that water and was cured. Some how or other, a tree which was near the pond, and hanging over it so as to drop its leaves in it at the time of fall, or projected its roots into it, I am not sure which, was suspected of impregnating the waters of that pond with its own virtues. Trials were made, and the tree found guilty of those qualities which ever since proved so salubrious to mankind; for which crime it was condemned to be, ITSELF, and all those of ITS OWN SPECIES, stripped of its bark for ever to come afterwards; a sentence which has never failed since to be carefully put in execution. And the *Jesuits* having been the first discoverers, preparers, venders, and importers of that medicinal ingredient, it went by their name, under
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vanity, and the dissipations of a corrupted age, bind themselves voluntarily to employ the happy leisure of their still, calm, and peaceful retreat or solitude, and devote their time, their labour and their abilities, to study

which it is better known than by its real one.---AQUA MELISSÆ, originally called EAU-DES-CARMES, is a most admirable cordial of very great and deserved repute, composed by the members of that religious order at Paris where it first originated, and whence it is circulated all over Europe.---In 1757, one Friar COME of the order of the FEUILLANS in the *Thuilleries* at *Paris*, invented an instrument called *Lithotôme-caché*, for the operation of the stone in the bladder; and this skilful monk performed several times this operation in presence of the faculty, and the most eminent masters and professors of the school of surgeons at Paris, with a dexterity and safety which did him infinite honour, and procured, for himself and his new instrument, the greatest applause and intire approbation of those gentlemen. See the French reviews of that and the following years.---Such are in epitome the proofs I can produce, from memory only, of my assertion concerning monks giving themselves up with a meritorious application, and a noted success, to the theoretical study, and the practical art, of physick and surgery. Were I to make good those assertions, I would dip into such proper places for facts, and authenticated facts, as would soon be found undeniable; and I would take care to be so particular, as to leave no room for the most illiterate in those matters to doubt what would be laid before him; which method would, at the same time, not fail, I dare say, to be productive of a great many more examples. But many of my readers being themselves acquainted with the facts I have quoted, and a great number living who have been eye-witnesses of some of the circumstances referring to the last I have related, I hope it will help to give me credit for the truth of what I advance from report only; though, I must confess, it is such a one as I may, with confidence, rely on.

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the art of repairing the damages which vices, intemperance, debauch, and luxury, bring daily on the constitution and lives of those they left behind them in the world. There, free and undisturbed, those pious votaries give themselves up to all sorts of studies and avocations, according to the natural turn and disposition of their minds; and there is no art, no science, and we might almost say, I believe, even no trade now extant, but what is highly indebted for its improvement to the deep meditations, trials, combinations, researches, experiments, and long practice of those cloistral solitaries. Such, therefore, of these as ever did, or now do give themselves up to the study of physick, and daily practise it in their infirmaries, with an averred success, are not certainly *regular-bred* physicians; but, can one say, however, that they are less learned in the art than those who pique themselves upon that vain, that frivolous, that insignificant denomination? Who will dare to alledge it; to advance such an absurdity? I say, they do really, justly, and positively possess (without the sanction of an university, and without the futile ceremony of a regular, unintelligible course of lectures, often as badly digested as they are negligently attended) every

every thing which ought to constitute the true physician, and are such in fact, while the other is only *nominatim*. What comes, therefore, from such hands cannot be questioned with respect to the merit of the composition, the virtue of the ingredients it is made of, and its real power and efficacy.—A few also, it must not be denied, may be the discovery of some illiterate fellow, who could neither read nor write; a shepherd, a plough-boy, a fisherman, &c. But, in this case, the great book of nature standing open before their eyes, why should they not make use of it that way, as well as a *Ferguson* did in astronomy? And why, if it should so happen, that chance offer them a vegetable, a mineral, an animal, or a spring, which, by an unexpected accident, they discover to be invested with a certain power or virtue; why, I say, should they not be allowed to make use of it, when they themselves, or their friends, their neighbours, or their relations, want to be relieved of the same, or a similar, evil they have found it had the power to remove? True it is, in this case, as it will not fail to be objected, that such virtues, erroneously dosed, improperly administered, and injudiciously prepared, may do a deal of mischief instead of good. There-

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fore, it will very readily be agreed to. But, at the same time, it must be as impartially answered, that those crude remedies never do, nor can, in that imperfect state, come to the knowledge of the public at large, and that they always keep within the narrow circle of a few individuals in a village or two only, as the very illiterateness and poverty of their discoverers, or possessors, is always a sure guard enough, and a pretty insurmountable barrier, against their spreading by means of advertisements. Therefore, whenever any of this sort arrive to that pitch, it must be through the channel and medium of some man of abilities and judgment in those matters, who consequently never fails, immediately and previously, before he risks his name, his reputation and his fortune, to make such trials, essays, and experiments, as will ascertain to a degree the dangerous, the doubtful, and the useful qualities of the new remedy; and, THEN, it becomes as sure and safe a one as any other whatever, of never so old standing, and of ascertained, or acknowledged, virtues.

SUCH, however, or nearly such, are the sources whence originate the advertised medicines, which so much excite the rancour, and stir

stir up the bile, of our proud, haughty, vain and superb adversaries, Now, I will ask an impartial and candid reader, to tell me ingenuously, what he really thinks in his heart of their affected declamations? Must it not look highly laughable, not to say absurd to the greatest degree, to every one who hears, or reads them, to see how the bullets infallibly and naturally retort upon them, since it is proved that none of those medicines, which make the object of their spleenful clamours, now exist, but come directly, or indirectly, from themselves.

To support this allegation, a few examples perhaps will not be thought out of season. Therefore, lest I should be suspected of too much partiality, being myself a proprietor, I shall not here investigate the pedigrees of my own medicine, but take notice only of some of the most reputable among those which, with respect to the censures and suspicious *inuendos* thrown on them by the faculty, stand under the same predicament as I have endeavoured to remove and to destroy.

IN the *London Dispensatory* we find the receipt of a certain *balsum traumaticum* among

the pharmaceutical preparations therein approved of, recommended and described. Now, would our readers imagine that this very medicine is nothing but a certain *Beaume du Commandeur*, of French extraction, known in different countries, and sometimes in the very same place, under the various names of *Balsamum Persicum*, *Balsam of Berne*, *Wade's Balsam*, *Friar's Balsam*, *Turlington's Balsam*, &c, &c? Would one believe that, before our learned and wrangling gentlemen gave it that honourable sanction of admitting it among their own compositions, and thus, as it were, to grant it letters of naturalization, this one and the same medicine had been, in different parts of the world, *quackly* kept as a secret in several private hands, and under various denominations, for a great number of years: till, at last, its real merit, and acknowledged virtues and qualities engaged one *Pomet* (a French doctor) to give the receipt of it in his *Histoire des Drogues*, whence the authors and revisers of our *London Dispensatory* handed it out, to dignify it with a place in their Sanctuary? And again, would one think it credible that, though thus adopted by the *regular-bred* physicians, and so publicly known as the *Dispensatory* makes it, this very medicine

dicine should continue still, however, under the disguise of very few and insignificant alterations, to be advertised and sold here in London by two different proprietors, under the distinct, and above-mentioned, names of *Turlington's* and *Friar's Balsams*, and be notwithstanding in fact, nothing else but the *Balsamum Traumaticum* of the shops? If that of the shops be a good and recommendable-medicine, can that of the venders be a bad one? Our reason, not our prejudice, is to guide us in this, and answer the question.

BUT, this is not all. The same case has happened to another *Elixir* of the invention of one JACOB LEMORT *, a very great chymist, and Doctor of physic of the university of LEYDEN.

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* LEMORT's name ought, in my opinion, to be written in golden letters, and never pronounced but with reverence, was it for no other reason but the invention of this remedy, though he was also of a vast many others of great merit, (as may be seen in his chymical and medical works printed in quarto, at Leyden, 1696) such, for example, as the *elixir menstruale*, the *Jesuit's drops*, another very valuable medicine, the *elixir anodynum*, the *bezorticum*, &c, &c.---Dr. QUINCY was the means of bringing his *essentia asthmatica* into repute in this country, by the encomiums he passed on it, joined to his observations on the composition; for, he did not hesitate to say, that “*there is not any composition of our shops to be compared to it in the intention it is ordered.*” ---The college of physicians did not give it a place in their
I dispensatory

The name he had given it, at the time, was *Essentia Asthmatica*. Now, it stands adopted, in

dispensatory, till the last reformation of it : in doing which, they have thought proper to throw, out of its composition, the *honey*, the *liquorice*, the *tincture of saffron*, and the *salt of tartar*. But, if they mean this suppression as an improvement worthy of their *High Mightinesses*, I say that, in my simple quality of *brother quack*, I could propose another, which seems to me of no less consequence than theirs, and which, I am surpris'd, to have escap'd their notice. Here it is.---They have order'd rectified spirit of wine. This, I allow, is the proper *menstruum* for the oil and camphire ; but, by no means, is it a proper one for the extract of opium ; which, on account of its gummy nature, cannot be so compleatly dissolv'd in that spirit, as it would be in water ; as a proof of which, I say that they themselves have directed the crude opium to be digested in water, in order to make the *thebaic extract*, or *strained opium*, used in this very *elixir*. Therefore, the way I would propose, to make this composition, would be thus. Dissolve the camphire, benzoin and oil, in a pint of spirit of wine : and, the *extract* of opium, by itself, in a pint of water. Let them stand twenty-four hours, then mix together ; and, after standing twenty-four hours more, filter. By this mean, the ingredients will be infinitely better suspended. *Fabricando fit faber*, says the old adage ; and true it is enough : for, practice alone and careful examens, in repeated operations, can produce real improvements. Not to speculation, indeed, but to various trials, essays, and assiduous labours, am I indebted for the *few* improvements I have made in some compositions.---This valuable remedy is the most counterfeited of any, among all the advertised medicines. And the reason is obvious. A good many individuals, it is hop'd, die, in an old age, who have been prudent and cautious enough, during their life, to avoid those irregularities which procure the *scurvy*, the *gout*, the *pox*, the *rheumatisms*, &c, &c. But none, in this happy island, where

in our Dispensatory, under that of *Elixir Paregoricum*, or, *Paregoric Elixir*; that is to say,
 emollient,

where the air is not the most salubrious in all Europe, ever die, at any age, and in any condition, from the KING to the beggar, but had more than once *coughs* and *colds*, and some of their appendages. Whence comes the temptation, in the breast of some people, who envy the apparent profits they think the proprietors of advertised medicines reap of their compositions, and who have none of their own to advertise, hence, I say, arise their desire of venturing the same carrier; to do which they think none fitter than that, the merit of which is most unquestioned, and the patients for which are more plentiful. These precisely are the advantages which attend LEMORT's *elixir*, and every one is willing to have the sale of it, without seeming to rob one another, nor proposing an old and well known remedy. Then, they new christen it, and disguise it with various colours; some put Spanish liquorice, to make it black; red saunders, to make it red; saffron, to make it yellow, &c. &c. Others, to disguise it still better, put a good dose of the resin of benzoine, or the *balsam* of *Tolu*: the effect of either of which is, that when you put a tea-spoonful of it in a glass of water for use, according to prescription, it turns that water white like milk, conformably (as we have observed somewhere else in this pamphlet) to the natural property of all resins and resinous substances.---So, that the buyer is really taken in, and fancies he has purchased some new, more efficacious remedy than any of previous existence; while it is no other than that which he could have got next door, or that other again he had yesterday, from another advertiser. But, after all, of WHAT consequence is that deception to the public? Of NONE, to be sure. If this remedy be the same as that other which belongs to the other proprietor, it must produce the same good effects. Then the customers indeed divide. It is true again. But then the elder proprietor only, and no one else, is hurt: because

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emollient, softening, soothing, or comforting; from *παρηγορία solatium, delectatio, oblectamentum*, or *παρηγορικός consolandi, seu leniendi, vim habens*. And it is not improper to acquaint the public, that the ingredients it is composed of, are so perfectly conform to the denomination of the context, so benign and effectual in colds, coughs, asthmas, consumptions and any such other obstructions of the lungs and breast, that all those various remedies, daily advertised by private persons, or the best and most reputable chymists and doctors, such as ———'s *balsam of honey, chymical drops, lozenges, essence of colt's foot, &c, &c, &c*, are nothing else but this very *elixir* combined with the insignificant addition of some unnecessary drug, to disguise it and alter its form, whence they take the name they give it. This species of fraud they practise with no other view but to have an opportunity to

was not this newly advertised medicine the same, and of course as good, as his; those who purchase the new would have purchased the old, and his now sinking profits would have been, by so much, greater. But what is all this to the public? Nothing, nothing; absolutely nothing at all. An old axiom of the *Jus Romanum* was; *Consulere utilitati publicæ, prima Lex esto*. Let this law always be that also of our nation, and we shall soon find the benefit of it, by being more happy, *in fact*, than we are *in speculation*.

publish,

publish, with success to their purpose, a well-known and safe remedy, better than which none they can find, as if it were a *nostrum* of their own invention. A circumstance, or rather a scheme, which, by the bye, we must know, attends most of the remedies of acknowledged and authenticated merit and virtues.

IN the last century, an imprudent use of the *Peruvian bark* having been attended with bad consequences, had brought this valuable remedy into disesteem, disrepute, and disgrace, so that it was intirely rejected from the practice of physic, and no one would any more have any thing to do with it. About the same time, one Sir *Robert Talbot*, an English gentleman who resided at Paris, had acquired such a prodigious reputation, on account of the surprising success he met with, in his practice, by the administration of a certain medicated wine of his own preparation, that LEWIS XIV ordered a large sum of money to be offered to Sir *Robert*, for his secret; that so singular a remedy might not be lost, but, on the contrary, communicated to the public, and become serviceable to the community. The purchase was made: and THEN, what did the so famous medicine prove to be? Nothing

but the poor old discarded *bark* itself. And where, therefore, did the merit lie? Was it in a different, a new, a more sensible, more rational mode of preparing this vegetable, a method better suited to its constituent qualities? No: not at all. What then? In the MERE method of managing it, the sole process of administration. By this mean, the medicine retrieved its lost character: by this mean it has kept it up, and preserved it, to this day, to the great benefit of mankind. Could not this be the case of many pretended *quack* medicines? No doubt of it. For, in fact, had not the truly commendable, the much worthy of imitation, generosity of the French Monarch stepped forth in this circumstance, and had this remedy been kept secret in the hands of Sir *Robert* himself, and then in those of his lineal descendants, or some of his friends, the success had certainly not discontinued to attend the use of the remedy; nor, perhaps, had either the bark itself discontinued to be, at this very time, condemned as a dangerous, a pernicious, even as a down-right poisonous, drug.

ONE example more, of fresher date, and I have done.—When the late Marshal SAXE commanded the French army in Germany, during the war before last, a certain *Keyser*, of
German

German extraction, but surgeon to a French marching regiment, finding that almost the whole army was fired with the poison of the venereal disorder, and that the long process, usually observed by the faculty in such cases, could never do with soldiers and officers, who were incessantly harassed by the fatigues of war, thought it his duty to contrive a method for contracting all the beneficial qualities and properties of mercury in so small and commodious a compass as to be administered to his numerous patients, and make them reap all the advantages of it, without any interfering with the duties of their profession. He luckily, then, invented some pills (which he denominated *Dragées*) by means of which he performed the most surprising cures, and saved the lives of many hundreds of his Sovereign's subjects from the knife of corrupted venery, and since acquired, before his death, a considerable fortune in Paris, during the following peace. These pills found also their way into this country in his life time, and since have continued to be sold and prepared in England, upon the principles of their author, by the hands of the same person, who first imported them: and, if we judge by the uninterrupted series of advertisements, which, for these twelve or fourteen years past at least, have daily been insert-

ed in our news-papers, we may readily suppose they must have met * with not very indifferent a success, thus to encourage their advertiser to keep up such a certain expence.—Now, here is, as we see, another † *quack* medicine, which is the fruit of the invention of a *regular-bred* Doctor, and is patronized by another of the same stamp, in our days, and

* I find these pills have come to such a height of reputation, that they are sent even into Ireland and America. These pills are made, I know, of calcined mercury. Dr. FALCK, in his late *treatise on the medical qualities of mercury*, page 65, has been rather severe upon them. As for my part, I am fairly of opinion, that they really have more merit than he is pleased to allow them. VAN SWIETEN, physician to the court of Vienna, and Sir JOHN PRINGLE, here, after him, have both, it is true, introduced the solution of sublimate in brandy or molasses spirits among the soldiers, as KEYSER did his *Dragées*; and I believe it was found better than these. This is the only reasonable argument, if it be one, which can be made against the Frenchman's pills, 'as liquids always mix in the blood better than solids.

† Is not GLASS's *Magnesia Alba*, a preparation of that earth, most exquisitely superior to any of those we had before, and are still found, in the shops. However, though of the greatest merit, none of those shops will ever use it; they continue to sell their impure one; and the author of this elegant purification was, nevertheless, a regular-bred surgeon, who lived and died in the heart of one our most celebrated universities hardly noticed, or ever employed, even in his profession.---He was an advertiser of medicines, therefore a *quack*, therefore despised by his brethren.---But, in compensation for this, he was, as ever he will be, blessed by many a mother, for the saving of her dear infant from the claws of death.

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under our own eyes.—The first had been regularly bred to the business, since he belonged to a regiment in France, for which he must necessarily have attended all the courses of surgery and anatomy at St. Cosme, besides the hospitals. The latter is publicly known and avowed here to be a *regular-bred* physician: and a man of fortune and property; who has not been ashamed of exposing his name in support of that *quack* medicine nor of protecting it against the virulent aspersions of his brethren; although in France, during all *Keyser's* life, envy never ceased to foam and spatters against the pills, as it now continues to do still, both *there* and *here*. But, was it a bad remedy, they would not rage so violently against it. Having nothing to fear from the success, they would not take notice of it; they would not even mention it. The vender of it himself would soon have dropped the scheme of promoting its fame, had he found his purse impairing by the expence of advertizing, without seeing a proper return ebbing back, in compensation for his large flowings. It is then evident to the blindest genius, to the most obtuse capacity, that it is not, as they would make us believe, a true and disinterested love for mankind and the good of society, which make the faculty rave so much against what

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they

they are pleased to call *quack* medicines ; but, only and truly, the sole displeasure of seeing the art of healing growing so easy, and their consequence sinking in proportion. They see, with an aching heart, in the *increase* and multiplicity of such successful medicines, the portending harbinger of an immense, and nigh *hovering, decrease* of their revenues ; which, like those of certain other craft-masters of some more dignity, have no other foundation but the credulity, the imbecillity, of an uncautious and blunt-eyed multitude.

As it was a recent fact, transacted before our own eyes, within a few years, I had in this cause a good opportunity of fighting that of almost all others, which now exist, and the origin of which, though not, perhaps, so well authenticated, may nevertheless be as good. Besides, this account most evidently points out the true occult source whence springs that inveterate enmity which our much boasted *regular-bred* physicians bear to every advertised medicine. So that now such an example is enough to open the eyes of the public upon their conduct, and set at nought all the most specious, and best worded, declamations they may henceforth prefer against those which either exist already, or which may start up at
any

any other future time.—Oh ! *Sons of Gods* of our days ! How far do you shew yourselves from elevated spirituality ! How much addiction and adherence, on the contrary, to materiality do you betray to a sensible being ! What low, mean, and vile selfishness ! What interested views do you discover to candid and indifferent observers ? Since, because an efficacious remedy is not left in your hands, but passes into those of such as will administer it to the afflicted, without the fees of consultation, at a fiftieth part of what you would charge it, you had rather see all your patients die without assistance, than it be said you have recommended such a remedy to them, or used it yourselves in any of your prescriptions. *Tantæ ne animis cœlestibus iræ !*

NOTWITHSTANDING ; (would any one believe it ? And, what a contradiction !) Innumerable almost are the *quack medicines* which, either positively coming from *regular-bred* physicians, or from other quarters, have however so far got the better of their opposition as to meet with their general approbation, be recommended by them, and even admitted in their repository. For, besides those already taken notice of, we have got again, as standing ones, that is to say, still sold and advertised
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in the *quack* manner, and nevertheless recommended by the faculty, *Daffy's Elixir* *, the *Beaume de Vie*, Dr. James's *Powders*, *Stoughton's Drops* †, Dr. Anderson's *Pills*, (now under the appellation of *Scotch Pills*,) the *Vinegar of the Four-Thieves*, &c, &c, &c.

IN speaking of this last, especially, I cannot help taking this notice of it, that it has a singular merit in being effectually the real contrivance of *four* French rogues, who, during a pestilence which raged in their country, found means to rob all the sick, and plunder all the houses, without ever catching the least symptom of the infection, and that owing only to this secret, antipestilential preparation of their own contrivance, the publication of which was made, at their trial, the price of their lives. —Now, whether or not, they were men of literature, skill, abilities, and theoretical or experimental knowledge in the pharmaceutical art, I shall not think of contending here. Neither shall I, in order to enhance still more

* DAFFY'S ELIXIR is concealed in the shops under the appellation of *Tincture of Senna*.

† These DROPS inhabit also the shops *incog*, under the name of the *bitter Tincture*,

the merit of the invention, assert that they were only some dirty villains, according to the idea their profession conveys in an Englishman's head, judging from a comparison with that sort of people who in England follow the trade of thieves, foot-pads, robbers, house-breakers, and pick-pockets. Too many and too fatal examples have we got, and do we meet with, indeed, every day in our own country, of people of higher rank and more exalted station, engaged in the same business and way of life, though not so much falling, by the mode of transaction observed in the practice, within the letter of the law, and thereby not so directly amenable to the cognizance of the magistrates, the verdict of a jury, and the sentence of a judge. The bad opinion, which experience and cool reflection, on the present state of our manners, and the corruption of our morals, as well as on the transactions of society in these our days, induce me to entertain of the actuating principles of individuals, is such indeed as to leave no room for me to doubt but every one, from the highest to the lowest, would willingly strip his brother of his property, could he do it with the safety of his person,—Therefore, there is no cause why we should think that a lucky

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chance,

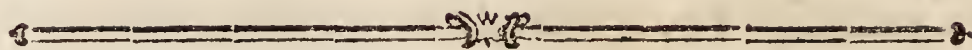
chance, a fortuituous hap, procured to *four* IGNORANT rogues this happy antipestilential preservative; and there is a much greater reason to think, that it is the fruit of the deep and long premeditated combinations of *four* ABLE and INGENIOUS CONFEDERATES, whose heads the calamitous circumstance of the times had put to work. For, interest is the greatest promoter, the most powerful spur of industry. And man, the most ravenous species of the animal kingdom, is so selfishly prone and addicted, that nothing could prevail upon the best of the whole tribe to do the least good or service to his fellow creature, was HE *himself* to deduce no sort of direct, or indirect, personal advantage whatever from the deed.

BUT, to put an end to this defence of the *quack medicines*, and be convinced of their real and intrinsic merit, it suffices to observe, that notwithstanding all the railing and scurrilous language used against them, no less than FIVE of them *, if not more, have positively been received in the last *London Dis-*

* These *five* medicines are, *Elixir of Vitriol*, the *Purgative*, the *Turlington's*, or *Friar's Balsam*, the *Tincture of Peruvian Bark*, and that of *Cardomoms*.

pensatory ; which is the greatest proof which can possibly be given that *quacks*, and their *medicines*, deserve not all in general (whatever may be the *peccata* of a few in particular) that censure passed upon them by the public, nor the malevolent aspersions thrown against them by the faculty ; no more than these last, whatever may be the real merit of some very few among the many, deserve not ALL the encomiums which are bestowed *on them*, the confidence the public has reposed *in them*, nor the sublime character they assume, and they would make us believe to be due *to them*.

THERE remains nothing now but to examine seriously whether or not two certain ingredients, of the mineral kingdom, which have lately met with some misfortune, and the best, most effectual and efficacious however, of the known, and actually discovered, remedies, are truly stained with that blemish which is imputed to them ; and whether they merit that strong and detrimental prejudice which the generality seem to have now imbibed against them.—MERCURY and ANTIMONY are the two objects here in view, and are going to be subject of the following disquisition.



SECTION II.

ON MERCURY AND ANTIMONY.

THERE are three * very powerful medicines which are composed of MERCURY, viz. the *sublimate*, the *calcined Mercury*, and the *yellow Mercury Emetic*, otherwise *Turbith Mineral*.—The sublimate is the only one hitherto known which has the peculiar property of dissolving equally well in any liquid you can put it into, let it be spirit of wine, vinegar, mere water only, or any thing else whatever. By this mean it acquires that superior advantage to be rendered a much safer remedy than any of those other sorts of preparations which, refusing themselves to dissolution, cannot be

* A *fourth* might perhaps, with great propriety, be added to those *three*, viz. *Mercurius dulcis*, or, *dulcified Mercury*, an excessively good medicine though no less a rank poison, than all the other preparations of Mercury, therefore requesting a *very judicious* hand to be administered with safety.

given in any other shape, or form, but in powders, pills, &c.

THE reason is obvious; and, every sensible being will, easily, conceive that, by making up pills, which is done by an admixture of some other ingredients, in order to compose a kind of paste, there may, nay there must unavoidably, follow an uncertainty in the division of each of those thus intermixed ingredients, which being the case, with respect to that chief active one, cannot but be attended with dangerous consequences. For, this uncertainty must necessarily be productive of inequality in the dosing of that most essential article of the compost: whence it may happen that one pill shall have *three* grains of it to itself alone, while another shall have but *one*, and the other very likely *none* at all, or, *nearly* none.

ON the contrary, a liquid is infinitely more susceptible of the most accurate preparation. It may be corrected to a positive certainty, and, therefore, taken with the greatest security, and without any the least apprehension or fear.

ANOTHER

ANOTHER strong objection against *Mercurial*, *Antimonial*, or any other pills, is again this. They are apt to lay in the stomach unactive * for a great while, until some liquid of an acid quality comes down, and then sets immediately the whole in action. This observation is supported by the opinion of the very learned Dr. HUXHAM himself, who, in his *Treatise on Antimony*, takes notice of this circumstance, and very strongly expatiates on the superior advantage an impregnated liquid has over a solid composition, and the much greater safety which attends the taking of the former, as it “ readily mixes,” says he, “ with
 “ the blood and animal humours, and passes
 “ off so freely and easily through all the outlets of the body, that it may be given with
 “ safety, and repeated with success, *two, three,*
 “ or even *four times* in twenty-four hours in
 “ small doses, and so continued for days together. Whereas the *solid*—preparations
 “ are very uncertain in this operation, *sometimes*
 “ *lying a long time* in the stomach and

* I think, notwithstanding, this objection, however well it may suit *Mercurial* preparations in general, is not quite so strictly applicable to *sublimate*; as this is of its nature too active to lay long dead in any one's body; the natural warmth of which is full sufficient alone to set it in motion.

“ bowels,

“ bowels, *before they exert any sensible effect* ;
 “ and then *at once irritating* with so much
 “ violence and obstinacy that ——— an Hy-
 “ percatharsis * sometimes, all at once and
 “ unexpectedly, comes on, especially on drink-
 “ ing a glass of wine, cyder or other vege-
 “ table acids. Besides,” continues the same
 author, “ when *medicines* are given in sub-
 “ stance, they must first undergo a dissolu-
 “ tion in the stomach, before they can pass the
 “ lacteals, and be mixed with the blood, so
 “ as to act as alteratives, diaphoretics, &c.”

THIS sage observation of *Huxham* must
 then hold good with respect to mercurial *liquid*
 and *solid* preparations, and establish powerfully
 the superiority I have advanced that the one is
 possessed of over the other.

Hypercatharsis, from $\nu\pi\epsilon\rho$ *supra*, *præter*, and $\kappa\alpha\theta\alpha\rho\iota\varsigma$
purgatio, therefore *supra modum purgatio*, that is to say,
 a violent over and above purging.---This explication of
 hard words we have thought necessary, whenever there
 occurred any in this pamphlet, to facilitate the under-
 standing of it to the ladies who may happen to read it; and
 by whom indeed it is our wish it may be perused, as well
 as by the *Adepts*, or, otherwise, those who think and
 call themselves, and generally are considered as, com-
 pletly skilled in all the secrets of the *Physical Art*.

Now,

Now, it is no less certain that *sublimate*, and all other mercurial preparations, may be increased and decreased in their virulent qualities *ad libitum*. You may correct, for example, the *corrosive sublimate* to such a degree, that all its virulent powers shall be quite destroyed and annihilated, as in the powder called the *white precipitate of Mercury*; a powder well known among the ladies, for its efficacious virtue, in destroying that little animal which, so commonly infests children's heads. Its innocence must be great, since it is used so freely with children's heads, even at an age when their fountain is still quite wide open; and its efficacy must be very little inferior to its innocence, since one single thimble-full mixed with common starch-powder at the time of dressing, will be found quite sufficient to operate the same effect in adults lying under the same predicament.

ON another hand; *sublimate* may be rendered still more corrosive than it is by itself, by making the following experiment.—R. Take half a drachm of sublimate, which dissolve in one ounce of rectified spirit of wine in a glass mortar. Next, pour it on a plate and set it on fire; the spirit will burn out
and

and leave after it the sublimate, which will appear as a thin pulp, spread over the plate. Add now a gill of common water, and grind it again with the pestle in the mortar as before. If you put a little of that mixture on a knife, or a shilling, it will instantaneously stain either as black as coals, and much more than any other preparation of the same ingredient.

ANOTHER experiment. With a moderate addition of any alkaline salt, you will always correct the sublimate at pleasure: so that, if you carry that addition to a certain degree, beyond proportion, you may thereby destroy its corroding power intirely.—But, by adding to this last mixture of destroyed sublimate an acid liquid, you will revive all the inactive acrimony of the *sublimate*, and restore it to its prime state as it was before. Because the acid liquid is a menstruum which loads itself with all the particles of salt, and absorbs them without affecting the *sublimate*, which, then forsaken by the salt, and rid of the encumbrance of its parts, recovers the free action of its own. Thus it is that what was a poison just now, is no more so at present, and the next moment may be made a poison again.—Whence I conclude that, though *sub-*

limite has been so much exclaimed against, of late, yet it is nevertheless the best and the safest of all mercurial medicines, WHEN, (I must confess) it is in judicious hands, and administered to patients who will strictly adhere to the prescriptions of the administrator, who, undoubtedly, best knows the nature and quality of what he gives, and the regimen it requires, during the perusal.

SOME weak geniuses make their appearance now and then, who, in compliance to the prejudices and circumstances of the time, have the foible of advertizing their medicines as *destitute* of *Mercury*, *Antimony* and other *unfortunate* mineral, or vegetable, which for the time may happen to be in disgrace: while, at the same time these ingredients are the very foundation of their medicines, and they could not manufacture them without that portion of their receipts. They forget that there is no medicine, of any note or efficacy, which does not carry its particular characteristic along with it; a characteristic which will always be found out either by the smell, by the taste, by the effects, or by the trial they can be put to: and that, therefore, a mere assertion, or declaration, that such or such an ingredient does
not

not enter into the composition of such a medicine is not enough to be credited. Thus, for example, *Camphire*, *Hemlock*, and *Cinnamon*, will be discovered by the smell: though good *Cassia*, indeed, will very nearly give the same odor as this last. *Jalap*, besides its well known purgative quality, will be found out by its burning disagreeable taste in the throat. *Cantharides* by their occasioning a strangury in the urinary passage when the dose is pretty strong; and, if weaker, by its producing a constant desire of making water, which soon brings on a diabetes. Thus, pills made of *sublimate*, if rubbed on a shilling will stain it black; and *Mercury*, if given in strong draughts will particularly affect the mouth. Though I must not deny, I have also known patients who complain of all the symptoms * which are found to affect the mouth after Mercury has been taken, though no sort of medicine at all had been administered to them, which affection was intirely and solely owing to a mere scorbutic habit of their body.

* Confirmed by the answer and declaration of Surgeon BROMFIELD to Serjeant GLYNN; as may be seen p. 41. l. 11. of Miss *Butterfield's* trial. Which see

BUT, to return to what I said before, and continue to prove how ingredients are discovered by experiments: suppose a medicine be composed of resins, for example; as these are only dissolved in spirits, the trial is made by pouring some of the composition into a glass of water, it will turn all into a milky white liquor. Even a nutmeg, if powdered and infused in spirit of wine, that infusion will produce the same effect as soon as mixed with water. So that those who are a little conversant with the *materia medica*, will never be at a loss to pronounce what are the chief ingredients any medicine is generally composed of, as to its basis, though they will not be able to determine precisely as to the respective quantity which every article bears, in proportion to each other. Though the *Antimercurialists* may pronounce that ingredient to exist in a medicine, it is not a reason, by any means, why such a medicine should be objected to. For, as I said before, since a very small matter may alter and correct the *sublimate* in particular, so as to make it a safe remedy, when administered even in double and treble the quantity, which, otherwise and without that correction, might be given, it results that no reasonable censure can be passed

fed againſt a compoſition, becauſe it proves to contain that ſort of ingredient.

I COULD have wiſhed to avoid entering into all theſe particulars: but, I was rather compelled, by the nature of the ſubject, to make theſe previous obſervations as they enable me to convince people that, in general, there is in *minerals*, beſides their tractability in the management, a virtue infinitely greater in power, and ſuperior in quality, to that which is diſcovered in *vegetables*; and I had thereby an opportunity to prove that the former may be ſo prepared as to be taken with all the ſafety one can wiſh for, eſpecially *when they are in judicious hands*, who know how to prepare and uſe them. This, therefore, will not now, I ſuppoſe, be denied. But, they will object again another thing; they will ſay that generally it is quite the reverſe, and that they are moſt commonly fabricated, prepared, and adminiſtered, by unſkilled perſons, and taken in medicines the nature and compoſition of which the patients are totally unacquainted with, or ignorant of.—I am willing, for one moment, to admit the fact: but, at the ſame time, I muſt declare I am of opinion the objection is not a bit the better grounded; and I will prove it.

FIRST;

FIRST ; with respect to the former part of the charge, we have already proved, I believe, in the beginning of this pamphlet, that, provided the medicine is a good one in itself, and comes originally from some able hands, or head, from some of the first-rate physicians (as there ever were, are now undoubtedly, and will always be a few in all countries and in all ages) it does not signify a bit of a straw by whom it is now prepared and vended. The actual proprietor, preparer or vender, as you please to call him, has nothing to do but to follow implicitly, strictly and slavishly the receipt he has inherited, or which was delivered to him at the time of his purchase, and both HE and the PUBLIC are safe enough.—The public is *safe*, because he is sure of purchasing a good, efficacious and tried medicine : and the other is *safe* likewise, because he is sure of meeting with success and encouragement, in proportion as the repeated cures, performed by means of the remedy, lay every day more and more solid foundations for its fame and reputation.—There is this very plain, and, however, true observation to be made on advertised medicines, *viz.* That all the treasures of Peru bestowed in advertisements and puffings of a *bad* medicine, in

itself bad, *absolutely* bad, will not avail one farthing towards its sale. It must fall, and it *WILL* fall, in spite of all the redoubled efforts and endeavours of PLUTUS, and of the Goddesses of oratory. Therefore, a medicine of long standing must, of course, be a good one, *ipso facto*, and in spite of all the clamours of malice and envy. The ignorance of the craftsman can therefore be no argument against the intrinsic merit, virtue and safety of the remedy, as long as he is not the inventor of it. And its sole success is and must be at any time a sure warrant of its *preconised* efficacy.

As for the second part of the objection, concerning the patients being unacquainted with the nature and the compositions of such medicines, it is no objection at all, or, at most, it is a very laughable one: for, who ever is the patient who requires his physician, or apothecary, to give him the receipt of the draughts which are brought to him from the shops? And, notwithstanding, it would be much more reasonable in himself, his friends, or his attendants, to insist upon such an information; as many a mistake, and many an error have been committed, sometimes through the hurry, and more often through the ignorance

rance of the servants of those shops, which have killed the patients instead of relieving them.—*Through hurry*, mistakes have been committed, by putting a wrong label round the neck of a bottle, and thus ordering a mixture to be taken by draughts, which should have been taken by spoonfuls only, or by spoonfuls which should have been taken by drops, &c.—*Through ignorance*, innumerable mistakes and errors, have been, and daily are committed in the shops by servants, prentices and shop-men taking out of a wrong pot, or bottle, and sending a rank poison to patients which kill them almost suddenly, with the draught in their mouth, before one half has had time to get down their throat.—
These accidents never did, NEVER CAN happen with the venders of advertised medicines. They know too well the ingredients they are to make use of, if they even know no other whatever in the whole *materia medica*. And those they use always are the very best of the sort which can possibly be got for money, without any regard to the price; and their remedies are composed with the greatest care, the most scrupulous attention to the *formulae*, or prescriptions of the inventor. Contrary to this, the draughts which are composed

composed in the shops are too often made of *old, stale*, and still more often, *spurious*, drugs, which are substituted for the good and genuine ones, either through a spirit of laziness, which permits them not to put themselves at the trouble of preparing * the right sort, or through a sordid spirit of interest, because the profits accruing from the false and spurious ingredients are more considerable. Such is their little care for the difference between the efficaciousness of some, and the defects of the others!

THEREFORE it is now evident that the advertised medicines, when originated from good hands, must be infinitely preferable; since they have all the advantages which compo-

* Can any one of them deny (especially those of the country) that instead of distilling their aniseed, mint, pepper-mint, cinnamon, juniper, &c, &c, &c, waters, they only take very often a few drops of the essential oil of those plants, mix it with a little sugar and rectified spirit of wine, and pour common water upon it, then use it, where the distilled water of either is required. This hasty preparation never mixing well with the common water with which it is made, on account of the heterogeneous particles of this last and those of the essential oil, which is found always swimming on the top of the other in little bubbles, it is evident the expected effect cannot be obtained from it. Will they call that conduct an honest one?

tions can have, *viz.* the greatest care and accuracy in the making up, and the choicest of ingredients which can be obtained from the hands of mother Nature, and procured by dint of money from whatever part of the globe they can be imported, without any reservedness or discretion on that head. For, the neatness and elegance of the look, or exterior appearance, which is generally the prepossessing attendant of such medicines, as well as the infallibility of their efficacy, depend intirely on the virtue of the ingredients; and the virtue of the ingredients must undoubtedly depend on their perfections, which shews evidently, and irresistibly, that spurious drugs could never answer those composers' ends, who must absolutely depend, for their success and fortune, upon their reputation only and solely.

BUT, will some again say, did not ever any of the advertised medicines kill, or hurt, those who made use of them?—To be sure, *some* have; nay, moreover, *all* may: and why not, pray?—Why should they not have that privilege in common with those of the shops, and as well as all the *Recipe's* of the so much boasted *regular-bred* physicians?—These, it is well known, produce that effect, and they

they make no mystery of it; they offer not to deny it, when improperly applied, unfagaciously dosed, untimely used, ignorantly composed. All that may, all that does happen to the prescriptions of the faculty. We have even already made it, just now, a matter of answer to the second part of the objection argued against *quack*-medicines. Therefore, that a patient afflicted with a particular disorder should send for a medicine prepared for another sort of disease, and use it against all reason and the persuasion of his friends; does not this correspond totally with the mistakes of apothecaries' servants putting a wrong label round the neck of a bottle, and sending to a patient what has been ordered for another, or prescribing to be taken by draughts what should only by spoonfuls, &c?—This was the case of Dr. GOLDSMITH taking, against all sense and reason, and the persuasion of his friends, *James's Powders* which were not fit for him. What can the vender of the medicine, or its preparer, do in such a circumstance?—Is it his fault?—No, certainly.—And, therefore, I say that the second part of the objection already mentioned, and already answered, stands now still more perfectly destroyed. For, *now*, it appears to be evidently quite the re-

verse of that proposition which should be propounded, as the following argument will evince.—By a medicine being advertised for SUCH OR SUCH a particular disorder, and NO OTHER, *the patient* KNOWS *then what he takes*; he is, POSITIVELY sure that *that* medicine is made for *that* disorder.—He knows best whether or not he is afflicted with such a one: and, IF HE IS, well and good: THEN, he sends for it, and KNOWS WHAT HE TAKES; though not, very likely, all the particulars, all the exact *minutiæ* of the composition, with which indeed he has not, nor ought to care much to have, any thing to do.—If, on the contrary, he is NOT afflicted with that disorder this medicine is prepared for removing, and insists upon taking of it, HE is a fool; HE, HIMSELF, commits the mistake, and if the medicine kills him, he has *nobody* to accuse for it but *his own person*; he is, to all intents and purposes, *felo de se*.—Who then, in his senses, will dare to attack a medicine, and discredit it, on account of such an accident?—Wine, the best of liquors, rum, brandy, and other spirits, have killed many individuals in all countries; and no one ever thought of making it a cause of his disparagement

ment against them.—People may kill themselves with any thing; with the most common and innocent food; even with bread, the most wholesome of any, if they eat it in too great a quantity, while it is too new, and before it is quite cold. HYPOCRATES has said, *omnis repletio mala*; PANIS, *autem, pessima*.—Now, on the contrary, when it is *at the shops* the error, the mistake, or the fault, is committed; when the preparer mistakes *Peter* for *Paul* and *John* for *Robert*; when he takes one drug for another, and blunders the time, the quantity and the doses, &c. IT IS THEN *truly and positively*, that the poor patient KNOWS NOT, INDEED, *the nature and composition of what he takes*, nor the *fatal consequences* which are to follow the use of it. He takes with confidence; his friends, his assistants administer him the mixture, with an equal security; and it is from the dearest hand that the unhappy victim receives the awful cup, and takes the fatal draught which puts an end to his days, and throws desolation and despair in a whole family.—Ye, tender wives, now disconsolate widows! Dutiful children, helpless orphans? Ye, fond mothers, loving husbands, now, tell me ALL! Who

Who are, at this time, this well considered, who in your opinion, are the common empoisonners? Who are the murderers of the members of society? Who are the pest of the state? The advertisers of safe, sure, tried and accurately composed medicines? Or, the preparers of *regular-bred physicians'* prescriptions?—I leave you to pronounce. And I believe that judicious and impartial jury, the public, will not want much deliberation to bring his *verdict* in the cause before him, and may easily do it without going out of court.

THE other cry, against advertised medicines, is on account of their containing *Mercury*, or some other mineral which the unlearned generality think to be poisonous ingredients. So that, now, hardly an advertisement is seen in the papers but you meet with these ridiculous exclamations, NO MERCURY! —NO ANTIMONY!—NO MINERALS! &c. —Eh! in the name of wonder, is there not then any other poisons in this universe to put a *cave* on but *Mercury*, *Antimony*, and other such *Minerals*?—And, what are then *Cantharides*, *Opium*, *Hemlock*, *Steel*, *Lead*, *Resin of Jalap*, *Scammony*, *Hellebore*, *Coloquin-*
tida,

tida, *Gamboge*, *Aloes* *, &c, &c, &c? What are in short innumerable other sorts of animals and vegetables which are used in the very advertised medicines which profess to use no *Mercury*, and *Antimony*, or in the preparations of the shops? Are not these downright poisons?—Notwithstanding, this very man who asserts his *specific drops*, for the cure of a certain disease, contain *no Mercury*, positively uses in a RESTORATIVE MEDICINE, *Cantharides*, which are a much greater one, since they attack the urinary passage, and cause (as we said before) when given even in small quantity an incessant want of making water, which brings at last such a relaxation of the parts as to occasion soon a diabetes, or involuntary shedding of the urine.—On Dr. MEAD's assertion that *Cantharides* were a certain cure for the leprosy, I was once tempted to make several experiments: but they were

* ALOES is well known to be the chief ingredient of the most humble *Scotch Pills*: and no less known, by those who are acquainted with the virtues and qualities of the *Materia Medica*, for causing, by its powerful irritations in the *Anus*, the piles, sooner than any thing which can be mentioned. Besides, these pills are made of the *Hepatic*, *Barbadoes*, or common aloes, which is generally given to horses, and is very inferior to the *Soccorine*.

so far from being successful to my satisfaction, and to answer my expectations after such a man's word; and, the certainty with which I have enabled myself to speak of that medicine is now such, as to make me almost wish Doctor MEAD's passage were intirely erased from his works. This ingredient, I take upon me to say it, is by no means endowed with such virtue; or, if it is, the risk and danger which attend the administering of it are such, that they far exceed what the laws both of God and man do allow, and what an honest man can undertake to execute with a safe conscience.— I have found, upon trial, that only *half a drachm* of Cantharides is a sufficient quantity to impregnate a whole quart of spirit of wine, water or any liquid, with their powerful qualities:—that a single tea-spoonful of this tincture, taken three times a day, will occasion the relaxation I have mentioned;—and that the infusion in water only, with or without a small addition of spirit, will act more powerfully than what the *Dispensatory* has prescribed even with all proof spirit alone.—Therefore, I must conclude, that *Cantharides* are a much more dangerous poison than *Mercury* or *Antimony*.—Indeed, by such railings against every

every ingredient which is made use of, were we to exclude, one after another, from the several medical compositions, all those which might now and then be exceptioned, we would soon find ourselves reduced to return to that time of ignorance, when disorders were deemed incurable.

THAT *vegetables* should have the sway, should carry the palm among those who are unexperienced, unversed in the comparative analysis, by chymistry, of the virtues of these with those of the *minerals*, is not at all strange, nor to be wondered at. These lively productions of Nature have every thing fore-catching in their favour. They are in themselves a wholesome eatable, in general; the first perhaps too, if we believe *Moses*, which was given to man before his fall;—they are the food of many clean and agreeable animals:—they must, from the beginning of the world, have prepossessed the mind of man by their pleasing prospect, by their variegated enamelling of the fields; and, since that, they have proved of singularly quick and efficacious benefit in curing some light disorders, and especially in the *sea-scurvy*. Hence, that is to say, from this last circumstance, some

I

have

have fancied them endowed with the same efficacy in case of *land-scurvy*; while, by the very nature of those two different sorts of disorders, under one same and erroneous denomination, it is evident they can be but of little service.

IN the *sea-scurvy*, the disorder, though dreadful enough in its consequences when of long continuance, is however only local and temporary. It is very often confined to the mouth where it affects the gums, the palate and the cheeks. Its cause being the alkaline quality of the food on sea, a little matter of fresh water and sweet vegetables soon repair that irritation caused at the orifice of the salivary ducts, and destroy all that acrimony of their juices which caused the pain, sensibility, and offensive *effluviæ* of the parts, especially as those same juices are incessantly recruited by fresh supplies from the mass of the blood, which itself is not corrupted.—But, in the *land-scurvy*, the case is very different. The whole mass of the blood is affected, and infected. Its restoration, therefore, to a pure state, neither is nor can be the sudden effect of the mere introduction of *vegetable* juices into
its

its stream. It is the action of some more powerful agent which, then, is required.

AT the occasion of this, I think I may, without being accused, or suspected, of prejudice, animosity, malevolence, or even partiality, strengthen this assertion by the example of two *vegetable medicines* which, though in the hands of two rivals and contending proprietors, who, one would think, should have vied with each other in producing the best, the most numerous, and better authenticated list of cures, is so evidently destitute of power and efficacy, that *one* of the two advertisers, though backed by very substantial persons, sunk unsuccessful, in sight of his triumphant, though inferior, adversaries, under the weight of the expences; and *the other*, now surviving this antagonist's fall, is obliged, in order to support his credit, to be beholden to two old and ill-authenticated cures, for want of better success. I say *old* and *ill-authenticated* cures, and I prove it thus. Upon enquiry, I found that in the first cure the medicine had been administered between three and four years ago, and the wife herself, of the patient, declared to me that, during the whole time of her husband using the

said *syrup*, he was ordered to drink, and did effectually drink, a decoction of *sarsaparilla*; a drug which, alone, in many cases of no obstinate and inveterate kinds, will often of itself perfect a cure: whence, therefore, there remains a very natural and solid ground for a rational doubt whether to the *syrup* or to the *sarsaparilla*, the cure is to be ascribed?—As for the other, which is now * advertising, it is so premature, that it neither is nor ever will be a cure: and it is therefore an imposition upon the candour and the faith of the public; since the patient, far from being restored to his health, has been obliged, a long while ago, to give up the use of the remedy and now is just the same as before he began, hardly able to make shift to work at his anvil without much pains.—With such barrenness, or more properly scantiness, of cures † is it

* This was written in November 1775.

† If they are scanty of cures in *scorbutic* cases, they might perhaps be more plentiful in *venereal* ones: For, they seem to lay a great stress on the prodigious efficacy of their medicine in those matters. As for my part, I shall not attempt to contradict them on that head, with respect to the *power* or *inefficacy* of that composition in those circumstances, never having been desirous to meddle with that sort of shameful disorder, nor ambitious to render my medicine serviceable in it. So far from

it possible to contend for an absolute and efficacious power in *vegetables* alone, when there is an infection of the blood occasioned by such virulent disorders as the *Scurvy*, *Leprosy*, *Ulcers*, *Gout*, *Rheumatims*, &c, &c?

COULD such *vegetables*, indeed, be found endowed with the virtues and power requisite to perform complete cures of the above disorders, no one certainly would hesitate to give them the preference. But, it is universally allowed that none such exist, or as yet, at least, are come to the knowlege of man. Till they are, why should we, therefore, neglect bringing to perfection a sure and safe management of the *minerals*? And, when we do employ them, with a happy success, why should we be so ungrateful as cowardly to deny it?—As for my part, far from being propense to make use of such pusillanimous practices, in order to enhance the sale of my

from it, that I would look upon it as a discredit to a medicine prepared, instituted and proposed for other purposes, to be thought of embracing also in her virtues that of curing a disorder which might make a patient ashamed of being caught in the using of it, for fear of being suspected of worse diseases than that for which he is in reality taking it.

medicine,

medicine, by mustering up customers on false and delusive assertions, and at the expence, of course, of my veracity, my honour and my good name, I have always made it a point, when asked the question, whether or not I made use of * *Mercury* or *Antimony* in the composition of my medicine, candidly to answer in the affirmative, and to own that even BOTH *these ingredients* had conjointly their share in it. And, now, I will go still farther; for, I publicly protest that, was I to be forbidden ever to employ them, or were they to be prohibited in this kingdom as once (to the everlasting *credit* † of our antient sagaciousness

* MAREDANT's drops, chiefly composed of mercury; Dr. NORRIS's drops, antimonial; each of them are allowed to be good medicines. This last, especially, seems to be very much like one of *Basil Valentine*, which he describes in his *Triumphant Chariot of Antimony*. But, let it be whatever it will, Doctor NORRIS's is, I must do it that justice, a very fine, safe, and pleasant medicine, made with superlatively rectified spirit of wine: and, if successful, which I doubt not, in fevers, it certainly has, in point of safety, when administered, the advantage of *James's Powders*, which are so often prescribed by the faculty.

† The *credit* of our wisdom and sagaciousness would, I am afraid, suffer a little from ransacking old records: since we find that, no farther back than 1428, an act of parliament was made against the HOP, forbidding the use it in malt liquors, as a *wicked weed*; and that it never

was

cioufness let it be said) HOPS had the honour to be, by act of parliament, I would immediately give up all practice, and renounce ever composing my ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS.—
For a great while, I have tried *vegetables* alone, and found I could make with them but very little progress; and, often, a mere nothing at all, if the disorder was never so little stubborn and inveterate. This proved to me the truth of SHAKESPEARE'S observation in HAMLET, that *desperate diseases require desperate * remedies, or none at all.*

It was not before the last reformation of the London Dispensatory that the *vegetable juices* were introduced in it for the first time: though they were already recorded, before that reformation, in the *Edinburgh's* and

was reintroduced, into the kingdom, before the following century, in 1524, which is but *four*, less than *one hundred*, years after. Mighty deeds of our forefathers! Memorable testimonies, indeed, of their genius! And how many people have we got, even now, who full as weak as they, would make us act as foolishly, if their power was equal to their will!

* All our best remedies are *desperate*, for all our best remedies are *poisons*, or *composed*, with poisons. And their salubrious qualities lie in, and are nothing but, a rational, judicious, and properly proportioned, introduction of them into our fabric.

Bates's.——And, in a Dispensatory printed at Nurenberg, *Anno* 1669, we find *eight* different prescriptions of antiscorbutic waters, wherein brook-lime, horse-radish, water-cresses, and several other ingredients, are mentioned, and compose the chief part.——The London Dispensatory gives the following prescription of *vegetable juices* under the name of *succi scorbutici*, or, *scorbutic juices*:——
R. Of the juice of garden scurvy-grass, two pints: brook-lime and water-cresses, each one pint: Seville oranges, a pint and a quarter.—Edinburgh adds to the above, *white sugar* and *compound horse radish-water*.——And the venders of the vegetable *syrup* add again to all this *dandelion* and *salt of tartar*: which, as must be supposed, is what they term an improvement. Whether or not, with any propriety, this small and insignificant addition deserves that pompous denomination, the public, and able practitioners, will pronounce.

A CERTAIN eminent Doctor (though anonymous) who wrote on the Dispensatory, observes, “ that the sugar had by all means
 “ better be omitted, as it occasions a fermentation which, when the bottle is full, must
 “ be productive of its flying to pieces. Besides,
 “ fides,

“ fides, that the fugar being fweet, and glu-
 “ tinous by its nature, is apt to clog the
 “ paffages, and turn four * in fome flo-
 “ machs. Therefore, that it is preferable to
 “ let thofe juices ftand in a cool place for
 “ fome days till the fæces have all fubfided,
 “ and then ftain them gently feveral times,
 “ till perfectly fine, to be bottled for ufe in
 “ fmall phials, with a little oil poured on the
 “ furface as is done with Florence wine.”

FROM all this, there may generally be deduc-
 ed a fort of conviction that *vegetables* * can be
 but of little fervice in obdurate cafes, when

* To prevent fugar from turning four on the ftomach
 you muft add a proportionable quantity of alkaline falt.

† Have we not every year in the fpring the *vegetable*
juices fold in Newgate, and Covent-Garden, markets, frefh
 drawn every day? Were they fo efficacious, as they are
 faid to be, we fhould not find among the lower clafs of
 people fo many victims of the ravages of the fcurvy as
 we meet with, who are true fpectacles indeed, and objects
 of compaffion. Antient phyficians tried the *vegetables*,
 and were obliged to fly to *minerals*. But by over dofing
 of them, and frequently bringing on a falivation, it often
 made them mifcarry. They were, then, true wild, un-
 tamed, and furious *fteeds*, vaftly dangerous to truft to, or
 meddle with: but, now, they may be faid to have at
 laft taken the bit, and received the curb, fo that they
 are as mild, fteady and tractable as the moft gentle lady’s
palfrey.

the disorder has impregnated the whole mass of the blood, and, in some measure, altered its whole composition and quality. If so, where can there be found a remedy invested with such power as to expel all the heterogeneous mixtures introduced in it and restore it to its primary purity? In minerals, certainly; and, no where else. Now, to prove that minerals, and especially the two chief ones against which the ignorant multitude exclaim so much, are of the greatest and most effectual service in these cases, let us hear what Dr. QUINCY says * of them in such prescriptions of his *Dispensatory* as concern the *Gout* and *Rheumatism*, and in which he admits *Mercury* and *Antimony*.—"It is by these," says he, "that many EMPIRICS have got great fame, when persons of learning and judgment are backward in adventuring on things, where there is any hazard; though *these* by a *skilful hand* CAN NEVER DO HARM. They are the basis of many medicines that are now of great esteem in the most obstinate rheumatims, &c."—In another place, speaking of a strong *mercurial* preparation, he recommends

* Page 407.

small doses of it every day; and, then, he adds. “If this method is complied with, inveterate cutaneous poxes, which resist salivations, and all other means at present in practice, may be radically cured, as may also *Lepras*, habitual scorbutical eruptions, and almost all diseases of the skin.”—

And again, speaking of another medicine where *Antimony* and *Mercury* are united, he says.

“This medicine is highly recommended by some, as being of the greatest efficacy in scorbutic and scrophulous cases; as also in all glandular obstructions and many chronic cases, out of the reach of common medicines: and it is likewise said to avail more than any other medicine in cancerous humours, and obdurate venereal cases.”——

On the other antimonial preparation, he makes again this observation. “It is a most efficacious deobstruent, and therefore extremely useful in scrophulous, obstinate scorbutic, and all such cases as arise from glandular obstructions.”—In short, at the

occasion of another preparation of *Antimony*, he makes this particular and striking remark:

“Almost all the foregoing preparations of Antimony, how severe soever alone, may be so managed by the skilful hand as to

“ operate little, or not at all, in the *primæ*
 “ *viæ*, nor be perceived until they are got
 “ into the smaller vessels; and THEN it is
 “ that MIGHTY THINGS are effected; as the
 “ CURE of the GOUT, POX, EVIL, and all
 “ those diseases WHICH ARE TOO MUCH the
 “ OPPROBRIA MEDICORUM.”——Thus it is
 this oracle of pharmacy speaks in many places,
 and in the most high terms of the virtues of
 those *two great medicines* (MERCURY and AN-
 TIMONY) either separate or blended together.

IN Dr. LEWIS's new Dispensatory *, we
 find again the following passage. “ The use
 “ of MERCURY in medicine seems to have
 “ been little known before the fifteenth cen-
 “ tury. The antients looked upon it as a
 “ corrosive poison, though of itself perfectly
 “ void of acrimony, taste and smell: there
 “ are examples of its having been lodged for
 “ years in cavities both of bones and fleshy
 “ parts, without its having injured or affect-
 “ ed them. Taken into the body in its crude
 “ state and undivided, it passes through the
 “ intestines unchanged and has not been
 “ found to produce any considerable effect
 “ combined with mineral a-

* Page 91.

“cids, it has very powerful effects; afford-
 “ing *the most violent poisons* *, and THE
 “MOST EXCELLENT REMEDIES that we are
 “acquainted with &c, &c.” See
 there, and also page 507; and on Antimony,
 page 527 and 534, &c.

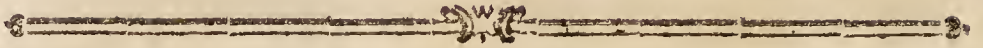
DOCTOR HUXHAM in his *observation on*
Antimony, page 70, expresses himself thus in
 speaking of a certain preparation of antimonial
 drink.—“Now,” says he, “in this liquid
 “preparation the reguline part is already
 “dissolved, and most exquisitely attenuated,
 “so that it passes into the blood with the
 “utmost facility. It should be moreover ob-
 “served, that, in this form, *Antimony may*
 “*be given in the most agreeable manner,*
 “*without even being perceived, or creating*
 “*any more distaste than the wine it was made*
 “*on.* A thing of some consequence tru-
 “ly, when we have to do with squeamish
 “patients, particularly with children, to whom
 “it may be necessary to give repeated doses

* It is true : but, we have said all along that these remedies require a skilful and judicious hand; and we have proved that THEY were *skilful*, THEY were *judicious*, those hands which first prepared the *quack medicines* which contain some of these dangerous ingredients.

“ of the medicine, &c.” and a
 little farther he adds; “ should it be imagined
 “ that this medicine, being so safe and easy,
 “ can have no great efficacy as an alterative
 “ and diaphoretic, I answer, that as it is capa-
 “ ble in a proper dose, of irritating the sto-
 “ mach and intestines so strongly, *it cannot*
 “ *be supposed, even in very small doses, to lie in-*
 “ *active in the sanguineous and lymphatic ar-*
 “ *teries; and both seems, and eventually is,*
 “ exceedingly well calculated to stimulate
 “ and scour the whole vascular system
 “ and *some such stimulus is very often* HIGHLY
 “ *necessary in the ultimate ramifications of the*
 “ *sanguineous, serous, and lymphatic arteries*
 “ where the MOTION IS EXCEEDING SLOW,
 “ and where STAGNATION, and CONSEQUENT
 “ CORRUPTION OF THE SERUM AND LYMPH
 “ ARE VERY APT TO GENERATE A PUTRID
 “ COLLUVIES By thus univer-
 “ sally stimulating, therefore, not only the
 “ greatest but also the smallest vessels of the
 “ body, *this medicine* GREATLY TENDS TO
 “ REMOVE *all obstructions formed, or forming,*
 “ *even in the* MINUTEST CANALS, and hence
 “ most successfully *promotes the natural secre-*
 “ *tions and excretions,* IN WHICH DULY PER-
 “ FORMED, HEALTH ITSELF CONSISTS.——

“ *In obstinate* RHEUMATISMS *then, in cold*
 “ SCORBUTIC *affections, in most* CUTANEOUS
 “ DISEASES, in asthmatic, leucophlegmatic,
 “ and icteric disorders, in old stubborn head-
 “ aches, vertigo, epilepsy, and mania, ANTI-
 “ MONIALS ARE VERY USEFUL, *and the vi-*
 “ *num antimoniale* in particular, &c, &c.”

And thus a great many authorities, from the greatest Doctors, might be collected to evince the merits of those two exquisitely excellent minerals, MERCURY and ANTIMONY. But, it is hoped that, without trespassing any longer on the patience of our readers, the few we have collected here together will prove fully sufficient, to justify those two lately disparaged ingredients of the *materia medica*, and their employers, from the doubts raised against their safety and the malicious aspersions which Dr. GOLDSMITH's and Mr. SCAWEN's cases had unjustly given an opportunity to a certain party to throw against them, in order to prejudice the mind of that part of the generality which is unconvertant with the virtues or vices of drugs, and the nature of pharmaceutical preparations.



SECTION III.

OF THE SCURVY AND GOUT,

*And a certain well known Remedy calculated for the purpose * of eradicating those two troublesome Disorders.*

AFTER having thus fought the long pendent cause of QUACKS and their MEDICINES, as well as that of MINERALS: after having

* What have, or *may* have, been the actuating principles, motives or views which ever animated the proprietors of medicines in general, I will not be so indiscreet as to make it my business to enquire into. Too well do I know, that the most favourable opinion is not entertained of them, not only by the faculty, but even by some very sensible, and unprejudiced, people of real character; and that an avaricious and covetous disposition, accompanied with a perfect indifference and carelessness concerning the individuals of society, and whether these suffer or benefit by their remedies, is but too generally laid to their charge. Neither will I take upon me to exculpate them from the accusation; although, I must confess, it appears to me a very absurd one, and
of

having proved by the most irresistible arguments, not far fetched, but all taken in and from

of a nature so inconsistent with their own interests, that it does not seem very credible, or probable, that any person whatever could be guilty of it; since it must carry along with it, *primâ facie*, a total ruin and destruction of the very thing itself they wish to promote, and on the success of which they must build their prospect of future prosperity, fortune and happiness.---But, be it however it will, conscious of my own integrity, and of the uprightness of my views; perfectly resting on the solacious confidence that I have only and solely been intent on searching out the true cause of the complaints for the relief of which my medicine is calculated, that I might really succeed in investigating a mode of cure by the united efforts of the most efficacious ingredients which the *materia medica* could afford: it is the reason why I am not ashamed of laying my practice in general before the judicious Public. Now, with such free, candid and open proceeding, I shall leave them to judge, afterwards, how far I may deserve to share, with some of my brethren, that severity of censure which is gone forth against advertised remedies. True it is, however, that I have the satisfaction to be able to declare that mine personally has never been called in question. To which some arch-critics, will perhaps oppose, that this may be owing more to a want of reputation in the medicine, than to a superiority in point of merit. But, I have again here another satisfaction in answering, that far from this being the case, all the news papers, of either of the three kingdoms, may evince that, within these *two* years, I have always published *ten good, and well authenticated, cures*, to my most able and worthy ANTAGONIST, *a single one*.---Notwithstanding all this, the pride I derive from the confirmed excellence of my own remedy, never will blind me so much as not to acknowledge that there are many very good and valuable ones under the same

from the very nature of the subject itself, that the former are, truly and literally speaking, useful members of society; and the latter sure, safe, and powerful remedies, when judiciously prepared, and prudently introduced into the several recesses of our fabric: I think I shall not be deemed unjustifiable if I now hazard to say a word of myself and my own remedy, the nature of its composition, its effects, and the method I pursue in the administration of it. In doing it, however, I shall endeavour to be as short as possible; though, at the same time, I must beg leave to communicate a few previous reflections on the SCURVY and GOUT, which occurred to me in the course of my practice.

denomination of mine, viz. of QUACK; as also there are others which, to judge from the words themselves, and context of their own advertisements, favour but too strongly, and, I am afraid, too justly, it must be allowed, the censures passed upon them. How to draw the line between the two, is what it does not become me to attempt to give directions for; and, to tell the truth, it is also a task which might perhaps be found attended with no small difficulty in the execution. For, there are in the world, learned and ingenious, as well as illiterate rogues, who will always be found a match too strong for the little nibbling critics of empiricism.

SCURVY.

S C U R V Y.

THE disorder of the SCURVY, till within these twenty or thirty years, was, in point of cure, but very little better off than the GOUT, which, to this day, is generally understood to be incurable, because no one knows yet the nature of that disorder.—

However, we have now the satisfaction to find that the SCURVY is no longer, of late, so rebellious against the remedies which have been invented to conquer it; and that such have been discovered at last, which have the power of extirpating it intirely out of the human body.—Why an earlier success was not obtained from the many endeavours which were first made to cure it, I think I can ascribe to THREE very capital errors in the process of the FACULTY, that so much boasted and illustrious body of wisdom and sagacity, that bright morning star, whose darting rays instead of guiding our steps, and directing the understanding of their offsprings, have, it seems, like an *Ignis-fatuus*, hurried them, rather, into more crafts, super-

stitutions *, and blunders, than real and useful discoveries.

THE FIRST I shall accuse them of, is their recommending *Cathartics* and *Diaphoretics* the one to purge, the other to sweat, the humours out of the body. Be the complaint whatever it will, a pimpled eruption, a dry scurf, or a running ulcer, the only reply from the FACULTY is always the same, viz: *Oh! purge it out; or sweat it out, by all means;*

* Witness the human skull formerly (and perhaps even now) used in the composition of the *cinnabar-pills* or powders for the epilepsy and convulsion-fits, against which Dr. FULLER, in his *Pharmacopœia extemporanea*, printed in London, 1714, page 372, exclaims highly, and very justly, in the following terms, immediately after the *Recipe*.---“*This prescript,*” says he, “*is in compliance with the custom of practice; but, for my own part, I declare I abominate it: For, I take man’s skull to be a mere dry bone, void of virtue, or any manner of effect, but also a nasty, mortified, putrid carionish piece of our own species*” “*&c.*” This is undoubtedly a most curious piece of mountebankism and charlatannery, if ever there was any; and more worthy of the ultramontane superstitious enthusiasts, than of a people disengaged from the monkish prejudices of old times: and should we, *quacks* or *empiricks* (whatever be the appellation by which we may be designed) be guilty of such, or similar, practices and superstitious absurdities, we should never hear the end of it. Was I however, to collect all those the *regular-bred* physicians and apothecaries, are guilty of, I doubt not but I could make a pamphlet of a tolerable size, filled with an amazing variety, indeed, of the highest rate nonsense.

the

the more out the better, and so on: and *that* they do, till, at last, the poor patient is so weakened, that he has hardly any humour all, good or bad, nor juices left in his body to throw out any longer. Then, when this is the case, the general conclusion is, that he is a great deal better, or, quite well. But, he no sooner begins to feed again as usual, than the disorder returns, and keeps in its increase the same pace with the recovery of the much exhausted patient's strength. Then, another scheme, as expedient and as well concerted as the preceding, is again thought of: and, having failed of success by the last attempt, like Dr. LAST, they think if the enemy would not go out at one door, *why* sure they must open the other. To this effect, the poor patient is served with a medicine to vomit, and sometimes (Oh! dreadful to relate) to operate *all-fours* at once; that is to say, they purge, they vomit, they sweat and they urine him all together.—Could one imagine our learned masters, those *sons* and *hands* of Gods, should be guilty of such absurdities? Absurdities and violences which shake to its very foundation the human fabric!—What would we think of that man who, giving himself for an adept in arts
and

and machineries, and being intrusted with a curious and valuable piece of mechanism to repair, should follow such steps, and begin to shake, strain and tear it before our eyes with that same violence? Sure, we never would suffer him to go on with it, but take it again out of the hands of such a blustering fellow.—And, now, is not our body a finer piece of mechanism, and a much more delicate one, than any which ever was produced by man? How is it, then, that we are so little sensible of the great absurdity of using it with less caution, care and tenderness, than we would *one* out of Cox's MUSEUM?—To those unmerciful purgers, sweaters, and other such like patrons of promoted secretions, that is to say, secretions increased beyond the common and customary pitch observed by Nature *, I would propose only this question.
—What

* No one I suppose will have the simplicity to believe (though some artful ignorant practitioners might perhaps be found who say it) that purgatives are endowed with any such particular virtue as will throw out by stool, sweatings and other emunctories, the bad humours *only* out of the body, and *not* the good ones. To fancy so, would be laughable indeed. Neither must I be understood to mean, that no medicine must ever be given, which has the power of sweating, vomiting, &c. For, there

—What proportion do the humours bear to the whole mass of the blood? To cut short, we shall suppose it to be a *twentieth*. Now, would any one think it very eligible to purge, sweat or otherwise *excrete* NINETEEN good, for the benefit of getting rid of ONE bad, parts? I think not.—Besides; what advantage would they obtain by that? And, if on *twenty* pounds of fluid, *one* of humours is to be defalcated: should you evaporate the whole together to *one scruple*, would you not always find in that scruple still *one grain* of humours?—I will say no more, nor lay greater stress on that subject, but leave every one to judge for

there are, undoubtedly, cases in which it is required. I blame that process, therefore, only when it is applied to the disorders of the blood, such as the *Scurvy*, the *Gout*, the *Rheumatism*, *pimpled Faces*, *Eruptions*, *dry and moist Scurfs*, &c, &c, and administered with the absurd intent of carrying these noxious humours out of it. It is then, I say, the purging, sweating, &c, is wrong, and contrary to all reason and experience. Purging and vomiting can only relieve obstructions, and foulness in the first passages, the stomach, the bowels, &c, and act as a rough brush in a pipe or a funnel to scour them.---Purging and sweating are, by a great deal, too much the practice of hospitals: whence comes that these have been under the necessity of turning out their patients as incurable, and, many times, worse of the disorder, and in a weaker state of their body, than when they went in.

himself,

himself, according to his own private sense, of the rationability of such proceedings.

THE SECOND error, I find the FACULTY have been guilty of falling into, is that of using ointments, in order to cure the scorbutic eruptions, ulcers, and other outward testimonies of that disorder lodging in a subject. To be sure, when those complaints first made their appearance among us, as they were attended with heat, inflammation and irritation, it was natural enough, some will say perhaps, to think of applying thereto some outward remedies, especially as they ascribed to such ointments, as were made of certain particular cooling herbs, a much greater power than they really were invested with. But, they were then, and so still are undoubtedly now, those who continue such a practice, most egregiously mistaking and wrong in every respect. For, first of all, they did not consider how little, at any time, of the virtues of any herb, an onctuous preparation can take and retain. Besides, the basis of those ointments being hog's lard, this, by greasing the affected parts, stops up the pores, and, thereby, ruins the good intention of Nature, by opposing her throwing out the corrupted humours,

humours, which obstruction can be, in the end, but productive of a repulsion * of them into the stream, and thus hasten, and compleat, the total corruption of the whole mass.—For, so it is ordered and managed by Dame Nature, with respect to our bodies, as well as it is with plants †, that there must be a perpetual

* Though the FACULTY are very sensible of the dangerous consequences which attend *repelling* remedies; yet they still give purges under the notion of carrying the humours out of the body. This practice, in my opinion, is the same as if they applied drying and healing ointments to the part afflicted; and I see no sort of difference in the process. For, most certainly, by carrying off the causes of fermentation, which produced the ulcer, and a suppuration at the mouth of it, which was a real discharge of the bad humours out of the blood, the evacuation must cease, for want of the active principles which promoted it; and, therefore, the noxious putridity must float again and mingle itself a new with the stream, and increase its corruption. Purges, in such a case, draw the humours back. And, pray, where is the difference between pulling a man into a ditch by standing behind him, or pushing him into it, by standing before? I see none.

† It is a well known observation in botany, among the anatomists of that class, that all plants whatever, from the ligneous to the herbaceous, have a ramification of descending vessels, by means of which they imbibe inwardly the dew which falls upon them in the night, or the most subtile and spirituous parts of the day-showers, from the top of their branches and extremities of their leaves downwards to their roots; in the same manner as they draw upwards, by means of their roots, and the in-

petual, and incessant, free flowing of liquors to and fro through the pores of our skins, which
circulation

terior channels of their branches and stalks, the sap which serves to their growth.---It is proved, likewise, that plants breathe and sweat; if, by this last word, we are admitted to understand to throw out, by means of emunctories, certain excretious, and redundant, humours contained in the vessels of a living body. Those emunctories exist in plants: and these throw off, at their mouths, which are open in innumerable quantities, on the exterior part of the skin or bark, either along the stalk or branches, or even on the surface of the leaves, a matter, seldom perceivable to the naked eye, but which, if mixed with dust or dirt, and not washed down, by natural rain or artificial waterings, will prove in a short time the destruction of the plant.---Such is the reason why so many plants, such as *Myrtles*, *Geraniums*, &c, and other shrubs, which people are so fond of keeping in apartments, seldom live to see another year's summer, and, at best, always look sickly. The corpuscles of dust or dirt, which fly about in the cleanest apartments, and which the very cleaning of those which are kept in the best order will occasion, settle on the leaves, stalks and barks of those arbuscles, and there, fixed and retained by the imperceptible drops of their sweat or glutinous matter, thrown out by the aforesaid emunctories, soon stop up their pores and prevent that necessary purification of the plants. Those other mouths, which serve to breathe in the dampness of a free circulating air, bringing in, likewise, nothing but atoms of a dry subtilized and hungry matter, which adheres to the sides of those small channels, intended to carry downwards the moist particles swimming in an open air, suck up on the contrary the little moisture they may be already provided with, and soon choak them up also. Thus the circulation being stopped, and the plant supplied with an excessive and surabundant quantity of water, which most people
I have

circulation is no sooner stopped *, or glued up, as is the effect of ointments, but fevers, dimness,

have the bad habit of keeping perpetually in pans under the pot, the root soon rots, because, deprived of its proper and usual evacuations, through the emunctories, the draught is necessarily stopped, and it can no longer sip any thing: therefore the water of the pans, instead of wasting away by the consummation and feeding of the plant, stagnates and putrifies; and the plant, after having withered a great while, dies at last.---Another contrary experiment will serve to corroborate the truth of the above assertion. If in a clean part of a garden, where the dampness of the air prevents any dust from flying about, you keep a plant and water the head, so that the leaves, tender branches, and stalk only should be moistened every day, but not the root, you will find it will thrive very nearly as much as if it was watered at the root, provided however, you let it enjoy a free, open, and circulating air, without which all trials will be of no service, and all plants whatever will always be found pining after, and draw themselves as thin as a thread, and, at last, to death.

* With another experiment, we may convince ourselves, still more forcibly, of the necessity of keeping the pores of our skin as free and open as possible, and disengaged from any ointment and glutinous matter (such as *paint*, *rouge*, and other dangerous ingredients) which may deposit into those small channels any atom likely to stop them, without a possibility of removing the obstruction afterwards.---Caterpillars, from the largest to the smallest size, are so constructed that, along each of their sides, there is in every one of the rings which form their body a little speck visible to the naked eye: that little speck is the orifice, or mouth, of a small channel which communicates to their intestines. If, therefore, you pass a light feather, dipped into oil, along their sides, over those

ness, violent head-aches, &c, ensue, and often worse consequences still happen. And, indeed, it requires not any uncommon share of understanding to conceive that it is positively barring up the very doors which should be kept open for the enemy to come out at, while *You* or *Nature*, or perhaps both together, are, with united efforts, endeavouring to work out of the blood the heterogeneous particles

those small specks, or holes, so that these should be all covered with a thin coat of oil, the animal will fall into convulsions, and expire, immediately.---From the various experiments, and observations, mentioned in this and the precedent note, I wish our fair partners would take hint that, without recurring to the East, or South, without the use of Seraglio's washes, Sultanas' paints, and pomatums, &c, the mere attention to wash and bathe themselves often is the best and most efficacious way to preserve their health; and, if so, the surest to preserve; nay to increase, the brilliancy of their skin and power of their charms. I could enter into greater particulars, and shew the necessity of certain other ablutions, the want, or neglect, of which is the sole cause of the dulness, or deadness of the complexion of some of them, for which they erroneously recur to art and pomatums, which destroys intirely the foundation of their natural beauty; while, by other means, of the simplest kind, that cleanliness would produce the desirable effect. I shall, therefore, say no more on a subject which may now be sufficiently understood by the intelligent; and to which it is my wish, for the interest I take in the real merit of my fair country-women, in point of beauty, they should pay a due regard in future.

which

which are producing in it the fermentation of those poisonous ingredients which are the first cause of the disorder.—Therefore, I conclude that an ointment * must be considered, at best, as a check to the evacuation of Nature, and her purging herself, through her own ducts and emunctories.

THE THIRD material error, I accuse the FACULTY of, and which *they* having in common with the public, the *latter* must have sucked from *them*, or *they* have had the weakness to adopt from *it*, is their recommending so strongly the use of vegetables, such, for instance, as brooklime, water-creffes, scurvy-grafs, &c, &c, and all on no other foundation but their happening to have been found indeed of real service in the case of the *sea-scurvy*.—They do not consider that these two disorders,

* One reason, I suppose, why ointments have been used repeatedly in these cases, has been from their success in curing the *itch*, before the cause of that disagreeable disorder was known to be owing to *animalculæ* (or small insects) which nothing but external application will destroy, and against which internal remedies avail nothing. ---In bad legs, ulcers, &c, there is a necessity of using an ointment, to keep the stocking, or linen, from eating in. But these, being of no other use, cannot be depended on, as they will not destroy the cause.

though

though of similar christening, are as distinct, different, and opposite in their nature, species and characters, as the very causes and principles themselves which give them rise.—At sea, for example, the scurvy is brought on a subject by long voyages, close confinement, and salt provisions, which will produce a putrid alkaline state of the body. Now, in no case whatever HYPOCRATES'S *aphorism* (diseases are cured by contraries) is, or can be perhaps, more perspicuously elucidated. For, alter all the circumstances aforesaid, sea to land, salt provisions to fresh, close confinement to liberty, stinking cribs to sweet and well aired rooms, smothered air to that of free and openly circulating, with the addition of plenty of greens and fresh water, and you will soon find the state of the man altered also. But, is there any thing more natural to be expected than when the cause is no more, which produced a certain effect, that effect should cease likewise? Or, *sublatâ causâ tollitur effectus* would never have been one of the leading maxims of philosophy. And it is too true and fundamental a one that, in any disorder whatever, the most skilful physician aims at nothing so much as investigating the cause whence it springs, that he may destroy

stroy or remove it ; sure as he is, and good sense must make him, that the present effect before him must unavoidably cease : which, in the eye of the public, and in the judgment of his patient, will be termed and deemed a cure, and *one indeed will be* if such a thing can be wrought by human skill.

Now, in the case of the *land-scurvy*, which I call by that name in compliance only to common prejudice and general notion, and in order to be understood, the symptoms are as different as the source whence it originates. For, the cause of the *scurvy* at land, as well as I can conjecture from experience, (and that experience I have gathered in attending such a number of patients of that class, as especially my *Dispensary for the poor* has, from the year 1773, in which I established it, given me an opportunity of having pass through my hands) seems to me to be nothing but the effect of frights, surfeits, and other accidents, the sudden, fortuitous and unexpected event of which turns instantaneously all our blood. Sometimes too, it is owing to, and may be the natural consequence of, an irrational indulgence of our pleasures and appetites, especially in the eating and drinking way ; by means of
which

which those copious, opposite and unwholesome foods fermenting in our stomach, without being assisted by due exercise, produce an universal sloth, which enervates our bodies to such a degree that the juices which should serve to the nutrition of its parts soon stagnate, and, like stinking pools, turn into poison.—So that, though the first symptoms are discovered in the out-parts, nevertheless it is then clear the cause originates always from the receivers of the stomach, infected by a corrupted slime, from long and accumulated indigestions.

HOWEVER, that patient is not uncommon, nor difficult to be found, who, not considering all these too true, though misregarded and unattended to, circumstances, will burst out into an exclamation, that “ he never had any “ thing which broke out before in his life, &c,” or some sort of such speech similar to this: as if we could expect to go through life without any manner of molestation, grievance or accident whatever, either of mind or body? And should we even meet but with pains of the mind, there are but few, I suppose, to be found who are not acquainted with the dire effects they will often have on the body, and
how

how much this will find itself affected by them!

DISORDERS of this kind are not formed all at once; they take time: time, therefore, must be employed in the removing of them. And I wish this might be understood as a precept, and considered as an universal regulator to go and abide by, as a safe one and none safer: never to attempt to *cure in a hurry a disease which is grown to a head by slow progress*.—Neither do I think, even, that a sudden change from a bad (I mean an excessive and irregular) diet *, or way of liv-

* I am so strongly persuaded, from many observations and remarks I have had an opportunity to make, that most part of our disorders arise from a weakness of our stomach, (which is, and unavoidably must be, productive of, or attended with, a necessary inability of digesting many of our aliments) that I have that circumstance particularly in my eye, when I am composing, or preparing, my medicine: wherefore, my chief tendency, in some of the ingredients I make use of, is to strengthen the organs of the stomach.---I have also, with respect to *diet*, (whenever I am consulted on that subject) made it my constant and general rule always to recommend patients to pay a very particular attention to what food agrees best with their stomach, and what does not; then, to adopt the first, and reject entirely the last. For, that only is healthful, and will be found to nourish, which agrees best with our constitution, and which we digest with ease, without causing risings, nausea, wind, &c.

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ing, into a perfectly good and regular one, is recommendable. A gradual alteration, in the mode of life which may have produced the evil, assisted with proper remedies, will always be found to cure with certainty, and re-establish a good constitution; when another method of proceeding would be rash, and might kill positively.

G O U T.

GOUT, a well known disorder by its dreadful effects, is notwithstanding acknowledged to be uninvestigated yet, as for its cause, or rather, its nature. However, this must be understood no farther than that nothing certain yet, and demonstrated to pellucid evidence, can be said to have been discovered concerning it. For, pretty rational conjectures may be, and have indeed been really, formed, which, although they cannot be considered as amounting altogether to mathematical demonstration, help however so well to account for the ravages it produces in the human frame, that, with their assistance, such precepts may be given, such prescriptions laid down, as, when observed, will infallibly prove salutary enough

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to

to afford relief; and, if pursued and adhered to with sedateness and perseverance, might, I think, produce in time a perfect cure also.

As for my part, without being willing to presume on my own abilities on the subject, nor to assume the airs of an investigator of those secret causes which proved the stumbling-block of so many others before me, I will only humbly declare, that, as well as I can judge from long practice and experience, the GOUT appears to me to take its source from one and the same principle with what is vulgarly called the LAND-SCURVY, *viz.* intemperance in appetites, accumulated indigestions, sloth and want of exercise. The difference, therefore, lies in the effects only resulting from this similitude of principles. Is that effect a coarse, heavy, slimy humour which passes into the blood? The *scurvy* then, attended with all its usual and dreadful appendages, that is to say ulcers, dry and moist scurfs, eruptions, pimples, &c, is the consequence. Is it, on the contrary, a fermentation, in the first reservoirs of the stomach? (A fermentation we all know very well, is always attended with a volatilization of the most subtile particles of the putrified matter.)

THEN, it is those volatilized particles, of that sour, fermented, undigested food, which pass into the blood, and produce those ravages so well known under the name of the GOUT. If therefore, you continue to ask me now what I think the GOUT is: I answer I firmly believe it is nothing but *a subtle, volatile, corroding spirit*, raised from the fermentation of fundry, multifarious, incoherent, incompatible foods, corrupted to sourness and putrefaction, in the first reservoirs of the stomach, before that dissolution, or, which is the same, regular and perfect digestion, could take place. —And this, I believe, will not be found either contradictory to, or even discordant with, the excruciating pains it causes in the affected parts, nor with the swellings and inflammations by which those pains are accompanied.—To be more pungent still, in my description, I will compare the GOUT again to the bite of a viper. In this case, no one will offer to deny that this most imperceptible drop of liquor, deposited by the animal into the wound, must be a most subtle spirit, since it rushes into the blood, and diffuses itself all over it with such an amazing swiftness and celerity that in a few hours, nay in a few minutes, the whole body is in convulsion.—But it is a
poison,

poison, will you say? I admit of it, and I add that so is the Gout also a poison, a true poison, and a most subtile one. The bite of a mad dog, insomuch as it infuses a sort of poison which is longer lurking about internally before it breaks out into any symptoms, subsides again for a while, then returns into fresh fits, &c, by a continual succession of rages and peaceable moments, might perhaps claim here the preference in point of comparison over that of the viper: but, nevertheless, the deposited matter, which produces the madness, is as well as the other, that of the viper, a *volatile spirit*; like again a certain other which taints the blood after impure acts of venery, and they are all comparable together in point of volatility. The only difference is, that the one (the Gout) we breed ourselves inwardly; we receive all the others, above-mentioned, from outward accidental causes.

THE GOUT, in fact, is a nervous disorder which puts on more shapes and forms than we have been aware of; since we have mistaken it often for Hystericks, Hypochondriac affections, Cholics, Rheumatisms, and other lowness of spirits, all disorders which are nothing
indeed

indeed but the very Gout itself. And I should be tempted to make a very odd comparison of it. For, as the ANANAS (vulgarly known under the name of *Pine-Apple*) is considered as containing the taste and flavour of many different fruits, so a great many disorders of the body are, under different appellations, to be found in the Gout. Thus, when it is in the stomach, it frequently causes such a weakness and sickness * that scarce any thing will agree with it: and, by corroding the nerves of that part, there results, spasms, or numbness, on the face, as it were a paralytic stroke. Then the patient will be uncommonly cross and peevish.—If in the bowels, it will produce pains, gripings, and continual going to stool.—If in the hands or feet, frequent cramps and burning, with a fixed pain, till they swell, is the consequence.—In short, such is the nature of the Gout, that often a gentle purge will

* It has been the common and general opinion of the FACULTY, that this sickness was a fore-runner of the Gout. But, I am of opinion, that it is the very Gout itself; nor shall we find much difficulty in being certain of it, when we reflect on the amazing celerity with which any thing of acrimonious nature, externally applied, penetrates to the utmost recesses of our fabric. Whence we must be sensible that a poisonous matter in the stomach must be more volatile still, as it is encouraged by the constant heat of that part.

throw

throw the weight of the humour on the lower extremities ; which trick, the REGULARS being well acquainted with, they never fail, when they see that humour flying about the body and unfettled, to make use of ; and, to give themselves an air of consequence, they affect to tell their patients that they cannot expect to be well without the GOUT, and it is the only means of being relieved from that universal pain under which they labour. The name of GOUT having nothing frightful, and examples of people of all ages who have had it, and kept it a great while, being abundant, the patient wishes he may have it : then the physician, says he can give it him, if he chuses, to which the patient agrees ; the purge is administered, and the first fit of the GOUT is felt. Such is the process of what is generally known under the name of giving a person the GOUT. But, had not that person been unluckily furnished with the materials, all the art of his physician could not have given it him.

En passant, it will not be improper to take notice here that, contrary to a certain old prejudice, which I do not suppose my authority will be sufficient to remove, the GOUT
is

is not confined, as many imagine, to one particular class of people, *viz.* the great, the learned, the sedentary, and the wealthy : but, that the poor are more often afflicted with it, than is imagined. Which observation convinces us of this remarkable truth, that no age, nor condition, or rank whatever, is, or can be, exempt from the diseases incumbent to the human species. And that childhood and old age, the two extremities of life, are, from the natural state of infirmity which attends them, more liable to them than the middle, in which what we suffer is more owing to our own irregularities than any thing else.

THERE is another grand cause of the GOUT, and SCURVY which I would not forget to mention, and which is our victuals turning sour * upon our stomach ; an accident which
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* I do not know of any thing which breeds the leprosy so fast as this acid state of the stomach : in which case, I frequently prescribe alkalies with success.---And now, speaking of this happy, and uninterrupted, success I always met with, in recommending contraries, to correct the bad state of the stomach, in weak constitutions, I must not forget to seize this opportunity of making a reflection which, if duly attended to, will prove of infinite service and utility to a great many ; wherefore, I will communicate it here both to my readers and my patients.

---It

is notified to us, by that acid matter which is
some-

---It is proved, that nothing, but a proper proportion of *alkalies* and *acids*, can form, what is called, a *good* and *strong* constitution. That wherever one of these two qualities is predominant in a body, this is what we understand by a *weak* and *delicate* constitution; because there will be some sort of aliments which, disagreeing with the stomach of that person, will not digest, and, therefore, will hurt it; and that stomach will be said to be poor and weak. But, in such a case, was that person only to enquire into the nature of that sort of aliment he finds disagreeing with him, and whether it be of an *alkaline*, or of an *acid*, quality, he would soon find that this disagreeing is owing to nothing but his constitution happening to be precisely of the same quality with that sort of food which most disagrees with him: therefore, that, as that sort of quality is already predominant in him, that is to say out of due proportion with the other, that aliment increases still more that predominancy, and cannot, of course, but absolutely disagree with his stomach. Whence he must conclude that, by using other sorts of aliments, of the opposite quality, and consequently contrary to that which is predominant in his constitution, they certainly would agree perfectly well, and never cause him any pain; because, in the dissolution they are to undergo by digestion, they would furnish that sort of quality which is most deficient in his constitution, and thereby counterpoise the predominancy of the other. And thus it is that, by a proper and watchful attention to the effects we perceive that our aliments produce in us, we might save ourselves a great many disorders to which, for want of it, we become a prey. For, this is the real, and only, reason why we find some people who shall be fond of lemons, oranges, currants, gooseberries, vinegar, verjus, punch, lemonade, &c, &c; while others will dread nothing so much. The former are evidently of a predominant *alkaline*, and the latter of a predominant *acid*, constitution.

sometimes thrown up, and which sets our
teeth

tion.---Therefore, we must then not leave this subject, without making again this other most prudent and rational reflection. First, That people should be more cautious in recommending certain diets, or remedies, to others, on that sole ground, that they themselves have received great benefit from them; and without being previously acquainted with their natural quality, and that of their own constitution; for, they may very well fail with others, although they have succeeded with them; and that by the sole reason of the difference of constitution. In the second place, and by the same parity of argument, we must not, therefore, wonder so much, as we are apt to do, at the little, or no, benefit we derive sometimes from prescriptions, of the medical or diet kind, we receive from our friends, to whom, notwithstanding, we know it for certain these have done good, in a case similar to ours; nor blame, at other times, those same friends, and impeach their good intention, for having recommended a thing to us, as of service and beneficial in that particular case, while we ourselves receive none at all, nay, even a real hurt sometimes, instead of the good we expected; because it is incontestable that the difference of constitution is the sole, and only, cause of that failure of the prescription with us.---THEREFORE, now, with a candour in which I glory the more, as it is less expected from a man of my profession, I will further declare that the above reasons are the same why some of the advertised medicines; though really good in themselves, and absolutely capable of effecting a cure in the cases for which they are calculated, are sometimes, however, found to fail of success with certain people, who, in trying of another medicine of the same stamp, and prepared for the same purpose by another advertiser, will happily be cured. The failure of the first, considered in its true light, is no more a detriment to its merit and character, than the success of the second is a proof of its superiority, in
point

teeth on edge ; or, again, by the smell of rotten

point of efficacy, over the first. The whole ought to be charged only to the account of the constitution of the patient who has taken them, and to nothing else. The composition of the first medicine had, with respect to the constitution of the patient who used it, a predominancy of the very quality which happened to be the predominant one also of his constitution : therefore, it could not agree ; therefore, it could not effectuate a cure in that patient. The other medicine happened to be as much predominant the other way, and agreed better of course, with the patient's constitution, and procured of course the desired cure. For, it is an undoubted truth, though, I fear, little attended to by the FACULTY, that, to produce a cure, a medicine ought to be as much adapted to the nature of the constitution of the patient to whom it is administered, as the aliments ought to be adapted to the nourishment thereof. Whence it results, and must appear evident, that there can be no discredit in a medicine for missing sometimes the effect intended by the preparer, and expected by the patient : as there can be no ground of superiority to be derived from, or to rejoice at, the success of another on the same patient, though it is too often the case with, I am sorry to say it, some of those preparers when that opportunity comes in their way ; which betrays in those of that stamp, whoever they be, as great an ignorance of the principles on which they are working, as a bad and corrupted heart, destitute of generosity and soiled with those sordid motives of selfishness and interest with which the generality of the advertisers are reproached. And, a further proof of my assertion is, that the same reciprocity of advertisements have often been seen from two rival, and antagonist, proprietors producing against each other acknowledgments of gratitude addressed to them for benefits received by the medicine of the one, after having unsuccessfully used that of the other.---But, will some say, does not this declaration prove precisely the

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objection

ten eggs, and the stinking of our breath, owing

objection of the danger which is said to attend the use of such powerful medicines? Does it not plainly justify the cry raised against them? Since all constitutions, by your own confession, are not alike, and since the variety cannot be introduced in a medicine prepared in large quantities at a time for the use of thousands? To which I answer in the negative; and say, NO; it justifies nothing of the usual exclamations raised against those medicines; and that *for three reasons, viz:* The first is; because the chief and principal care of the composers, or preparers, of those medicines always is to neutralize, as much as possible, the *acid, or alkaline*, qualities of the ingredients which enter into the composition of their medicines, by blending them with a due porportion of their contraries or correctors, so as to leave them no such sufficient strength, force, power or virtue, as would enable them to do the mischief which otherwise might result from an use of them in their crude state.---The second reason is, because, in the bill of directions which never fail being delivered along with those medicines, a proper caution and charge are always given, and strongly insisted upon, to begin the use of the medicine, first with such a particular quantity (and that quantity, it is to be observed by the bye, is always the smallest possible, and such a one indeed as would hardly make any impression on the stomach of a lark) then to increase the dose gradually, according to the scale of quantities given, to such a particular and specified pitch, and NO FARTHER, should it even agree, never so well, beyond it; and that if, at any of the prescribed doses, the patient should find that the medicine does not agree with his stomach, to retrograde back again to that particular dose which he did find to agree best; then make a fresh attempt to rise as far as the highest dose prescribed, if possible; if not, to return AND KEEP to the lower one, if none higher can do: which very directions, when duly attended and adhered to, fit, as we may see, those sorts of medicines

ing to an alkaline state of our food in the first reservoirs.

It is the reason why acids, and lemons * in particular, are said to be hurtful to persons afflicted with the Gout, and these are cautioned against them.—But there is a method of using them, which I would recommend, and, if observed, would blunt their malignant effect. About the quantity of a scruple of salt of tartar, or, of wormwood added to half an ounce of the juice squeezed out of a

dicines to *almost* all sorts of constitutions,---But the third, and a very strong, reason why my precedent candid declaration does not, either authorize, or justify, the clamours raised against the pretended danger attending the use of advertised powerful medicines, is again that a proper regimen of life, and rules of diet are prescribed to the patients in general; the intent and use of which are to finish in each patient the counter-balancing of the predominant quality which may happen to exist in the composition of the medicine: so that, by a regular, strict, and slavish adherence to the prescriptions, of the preparers of those advertised medicines, these, as we have already said it, will suit almost every constitution, and it is evident no one can possibly be hurt, if even so much, as a few, may be found, in the crowd, who received not the benefit intended by, and expected from, them. But, I have said, and expatiated enough already upon this subject: therefore, I will quit it for this time, and *verbum non amplius addam*.

* So strong is the acid of lemons, that a knife used to cut them is very soon eaten in holes.

lemon,

lemon, and mixed with a wine-glass, or more, of water, is sufficient to destroy its acidity, as in the saline draught. But, too free an use of the alkaline salt should not be however, encouraged; lest, from one extreme, we should run into another, and, from an acid state, we fall into an alkaline; which would be as bad, as it is this last which generally produces the malignant fevers. Therefore, in every thing, moderation and rules must be strictly adhered to; and, the Latin saying *ne quid nimis* be our incessant guide, in all our actions.

T H E R E M E D Y.

OF all the disorders, to which the human frame is liable, none are, none can be incurable; though, many may exist now, which have never yet been cured to this day.—This earth we inhabit, of which we make a part, carries, both on its surface and in its bowels, every antidote requisite against the accidents which can disorder the animal œconomy. From the surface, we obtain the vegetable; from the bowels, the mineral and metallic, substances.

OUR body, supported in its functions by nothing but a perfect equilibrium of ascending and descending powers, cannot incessantly,

stantly, as it does, exercise those powers without suffering, at the same time, an incessant, a necessary, an unavoidable waste of them. That waste is manifested to us by a sensation, to which we have given the name of *hunger*. It is that sensation which prompts us to introduce into our machine such materials as may contain, according to the constitution, and fabric, of each species, the proper particles to supply the deficiency occasioned by the waste. Hence food, its necessity, and the natural tendency of every animal to imbibe it.

THE seeming sagacity each individual discovers, in the choice of the materials which suit best its constitution and conformation, might, I doubt not, be here decorated, by some sort of writers, with the high character, and beautiful names, of direction, instruction, inspiration, or, wisdom, &c, stamped in the animal by Nature. I call it nothing, but a necessary consequence of the principles of its constitution. I say more: I say it is merely the effect of that irresistible tendency, which divided homogeneous particles have, of uniting together. So, that there must exist an homogeneity, between the parts which constitute the sheep, and the grass of the fields: and, invertedly,

vertedly, there must exist also a perfect heterogeneity, between that same animal and the roasted, or raw, flesh of an ox, or that of a turbot; since, greedy after the one, he lances towards it, and thrives upon it; while, averse to either of the other sort of food, his repugnance to it is so strong, that you might see him waste absolutely to death, should you put, before him, nothing else for his support.

THE chymical dissolution of that food, in the pocket of the stomach, and which we know by the name of digestion, produces a resolution of it into its distinct, separate, primordial, and originally constituent, parts; whence, the subtile ones, which are homogeneous with the fabric of the animal, pass into it, as supplies and recruits, to repair the waste occasioned by the friction resulting from the exercise of its powers; and the coarse, useless, component parts, which served only to the configuration of the food, are thrown out, as excrements.

THE continual, and uninterrupted, exertion of those œconomical functions, or actions of the powers, incessantly wasting, and as incessantly

cessantly recruiting, in an organical body, is what is understood by the word *life*.

FROM this succession of observations, we seem naturally led to admit of a conviction, *viz.* that the least *erratum* in the quality, or quantity, of the new and fresh particles re-introduced into the human frame, for supplying the deficiency of the wasted ones, must unavoidably be productive of the greatest irregularity, and discordance, in the movements, functions, and operations of the machine; which discordance, if not timely rectified, must absolutely make it fly to pieces, and destroy it intirely.—Now, improper aliments always produce that *erratum*, the fruit of which is that very discordance in the operations of the engines of our fabric; or, in plainer terms, the diseases, and disorders, to the rack of which, WE, in preference to all the rest of animals, seem more doomed to, and incumbered with, than any other whatever.

THE comparative view of the natural, steady and persevering healthiness of *brutes*, with the variable state, and ailingness, of *man*, seems to bring in the curious and very interesting

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resting question, “ whether the present mode
“ of living of this last animal is natural to
“ him or not; and whether it is not much
“ more likely, that he has prodigiously de-
“ viated from the real food ascribed to his
“ constitution, that is to say, that sort of
“ food which was homogeneous to the pri-
“ mordial composing parts of his *paste* ?” But,
it is too learned a subject, to be confined to the
room we could allow it here for discussion ;
and too important, to be lightly touched upon.
Therefore, as, to do it justice, it would take
a great deal more time than, at present, we can
conveniently bestow upon it, I will content
myself, for the moment, with only hinting
that any artificial preparation of daily food,
wrought by any other hand than those of
Nature is, necessarily must be, not only re-
pugnant, but also *detrimental*, to the basis
of the constitution of any animal, and, by
no means, can be homogeneous to it. To
those preparations, only and solely, may we,
MUST we, therefore, ascribe with justice, and
to no nothing else, the true and direct cause
of those innumerable diseases which we find
to be the unfortunate lot of our species: be-
cause those preparations being themselves com-
posed of incompatible particles, and, besides,

quite heterogeneous to our constitution, it results that their dissolution in our stomach must introduce, in the whole context of our fabric, such juices as, being total strangers to its construction, cannot help causing tensions, contractions, relaxations, distractions, irritations, fermentations, in short, combustions of all kinds, according to the different qualities inherent in them; qualities totally opposite, and contrary, to the dispositions of the organs through which they are conveyed.

THIS being so, is it a wonder, now, that we should be liable to so many diseases as we are?—No.—As for my part, I think it is a much greater subject of wonder, indeed, we are not all born rickety, crooked, cripple, rotten, &c; nay, that there is still left any of the human species at all on earth.—This folly will perhaps make some people start; but it will not cause any such effect on those who are acquainted with the great difference there is between the longevity and size of man at this present time, and that of this same animal in former ages.

To return to our object: being once well convinced, both by reflection and experience,

that all our habitual diseases are owing to nothing but a bad state of our blood, occasioned by the unwholesomeness of our food, which introduces, among our juices, a quantity of strange and foreign particles, which mix themselves among them, and cause all those ravages by which we find ourselves so cruelly tormented; I thought that the only rational and possible means of curing them could undoubtedly not be by any outward application; and that it was much more concordant with sense and reason to introduce after them, by the same door, some ingredients endowed with the power and virtue of coping with the first principles of the disorder, to dislodge them, and restore the blood and humours to their primary state and purity, by furnishing them with those original particles which constituted their former equilibrium, before they were overwhelmed by those of the disorder.

ALL these resources exist in minerals. Minerals alone contain those powers which can increase or decrease the velocity of the circulation of the blood; thin, clarify and cleanse it; expel the heterogeneous inimical particles floating in it, and reintroduce those which may have been destroyed, lost, or, overcome by them, and
which

which are requisite and necessary to give it its proper consistence.

IF you insist upon those minerals being poisons, and ask why I give not the preference to vegetables *? I will answer, that I have two very great reasons for it: the first, that vegetables, such as might produce the desired effect, would be themselves as great poisons as the minerals; because they must draw their virtues from particles of these strewed all about the bowels of the earth which they suck up according to their nature, species and dispositions. The second reason is, that there is, between minerals and vegetables, the same difference as between the impetuous fiery horse and the peaceable dull mule. The first of which, if you are a good horse-man, or driver, will, by one single leap, timely applied, extricate you from the most imminent danger, when on the brink of a well, or in the middle of a confused helter-skelter of carriages, at the breaking up of an opera, a ball,

* Vegetable food, such as greens and sallads, &c, disagree very often with *scorbutic* and *gouty* patients, more than any other food: because they fill them with wind and UNDIGESTABLE matter.

or a review, &c, while, whether driven or carried by the other, you could not but undoubtedly perish, and be crushed to atoms, by the relentness of his motions.

THEREFORE, I maintain, from the comparison, that you may tame, conquer, manage, direct and regulate, at pleasure, the operations of minerals, and obtain thereby what effect you please from them, while, with respect to vegetables *, you find yourself reduced to the necessity of yielding to their slow progress, and tedious operation, to follow them in their dull motions, and, after a long patience, to be still at the point where you were at beginning; because the disorder bred poisons faster, than the remedy could introduce antidotes against them, and got the head of it. This accident can never happen with minerals, whose powers, brought down at first even lower than the weakest vegetable, you may, by degrees, increase to what pitch you like, till you get the better of the

* I question whether Doctor HILL's vegetable preparation of the *water dock* ever performed a single cure. He never advertised any; yet, of his other nostrums he did. The Doctor was an ingenious man, certainly, but the greatest of all QUACKS.

principles of the disorder, overcome them, and expel them, at last, intirely from the body.

AND this happy *desideratum* I hope I am in possession of by the *remedy* which is in my hands. A *remedy* which I neither am, nor even wish to be thought, the first inventor of. No; I candidly confess I purchased it from one who, no more than I, invented it; but who himself had it from one of the most ingenious and skilful adept in the art of chymistry. By the wonderful cures this *remedy* had performed, when in the hands of its first inventor, and in those of his successor, I soon was convinced of its real merit and efficacy. But, when I became the only proprietor of it, I was willing to put it to the greatest trial, by opening a larger field of operations, whence, in a twelve-month, I could draw as much experience as, without it, I might not expect perhaps in twice twelve years.—For that purpose I opened in 1773, a DISPENSARY FOR THE POOR *afflicted with either the GOUT, SCURVY, RHEUMATISM, &c,* and gave repeatedly public notice I would administer them that sort of *remedy* GRATIS. My plan succeeded to the full of
my

my expectations; and, by the vast number of patients who flocked to me from all sides, I was soon able to judge, from the immense variety of cases, how far my REMEDY could be relied upon, where it cured, where it only soothened and afforded a mere relief, and where it missed totally. Those observations, closely followed, carefully taken down, and attentively compared together, joined with a most assiduous, and unremitted, study of the degrees of powers and virtues vested in the various drugs, and ingredients, which compose the *materia medica*, singly and combinedly examined, soon enabled me to discover where the susceptibility lay of the REMEDY admitting any improvement. I followed with steadiness and perseverance that track which seemed there laying open to pursue; and, since, have had no reason to be displeased with the happy success of my labours. Happily, they proved not vain, and amply repaid me for my pains, by the degree of perfection to which I was so lucky to bring my MEDICINE, which I have now the confidence and boldness to assert to be certainly surpassed by none at this present time extant, if ever equalled by any. And, in saying this, I hope I shall not be supposed to publish a mere puff, void of foundation;

as I can refer the public, for a proof of my assertion, to the vast number of persons who have positively been cured by means of my REMEDY, and to those who are acquainting me daily, from every part of England, with the surprising, and unexpected, benefit they have received from it, in the most desperate and inveterate cases.

HOWEVER, I have already said it many times, and I will never cease to repeat it again, I pretend not to work miracles, nor to restore youth to an old decrepit man worn out by diseases and decayed by age; but only, by means of my medicines, to work interiorly, and give new life and spirit to the relented circulation of the blood, clear and remove obstructions, and strengthen the body. Then this, in proportion as it recovers its wonted vigour, becomes more able to bear any accident which may happen; and, to that circumstance alone, I ascribe so many cures as I have had the happiness to perform, some of which were of diseases so inveterate as to threaten even a consumption in the subject.

BUT, this power was not to be obtained from one or two ingredients alone. Some

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operate

operate one effect only, others another, and and others another again. The merit lay then in the art of uniting their several distinct powers; to modify, or assist, the one by the other; and to make all work in concert in the body.—And this I have done by uniting, after single trials, the most proper in one sole composition. This union produced what I had been in search of for such a long while, an excellent medicine, in which I have not declined admitting the Mercury of a VAN SWIETEN, or a BOERHAAVE, the Antimony * of a HUXHAM and a VALENTINE, the Hemlock of a STORK, nor the acids, bitters and alkaline vegetables joined with steel preparations, so far as to correct and blend the whole together, that one should not be too powerful for another, but correct and mitigate each other. Thus, I am not ashamed of confessing it, my MEDICINE is undoubtedly composed of poisons †: but, they are

* To join the powers of Mercury and Antimony in pills, or powders, is very easy: but, to unite them in a liquid, without losing any part of their efficacy, is a process extremely difficult, and which has given me much trouble before I could obtain so desirable an accomplishment.

† I doubt not but to certain unthinking and unreflecting people, it will seem a very strange assertion in me to say,

are so tamed, or corrected, as to make them subservient to the greatest end, *viz*: man's health; since, as HIPPOCRATES says, disorders are to be cured by contraries.

As I have, therefore, so openly stood forth as an advocate for the most slandered *minerals*, it is not reasonable to expect I should be afraid to own I make use of them. Was I to do it, it would undoubtedly be in me the greatest piece of ingratitude towards them; since I have so often experienced their mighty power, to my credit and the great benefit of my numerous patients.

COULD I have found the same advantage in vegetables alone, I should have been very ready to do them the same justice. But, upon fair trial and experience, they have proved too weak indeed, and insufficient. And, it will appear perhaps a very strange

say, that there is nothing in Nature but which, if used or carried beyond certain bounds, must and will degenerate, from a supporter, into a destroyer, of health; and, thereby, be strictly deemed a poison, since it puts an end to our life. Bread, wine, water, tea, coffee, orgeat, &c, any exercise, any pleasure, or any pain, joy, or fear, &c, every thing, in short, you can name is a poison.

paradox to the public, (though we have already observed it before) to declare that, medicines capable of doing the most good, generally are, and seldom can be any thing else, but rank poisons.

I HAVE not, however, the presumption to say that the diseases, against which my MEDICINE is prepared, are easily removed, cured or eradicated; or, that I can give relief in all cases, ages, &c, as if I meant to give people to understand that all mankind were fools before me.—As I pretend not to work by magick, I only declare my thoughts on each disorder, and then give my mode of treating it: and, though I have had the satisfaction to operate such great cures, even in the GOUT, I am notwithstanding convinced this last disorder will, whilst this world exists, ever be a scourge to mankind, in spite of all the united efforts of EMPIRICKS and REGULARS.—With reason, assisted by experience, we may, perhaps, become better able to ascertain the cause of that dreadful disorder, and give relief: but, to discover a medicine such as to be capable of preventing either the SCURVY or the GOUT, is the height of absurdity; since it is demonstrated that

that we breed them both inwardly, by our intemperance and extravagant mode of nutrition, especially when we additionally commit any irregularity in it. To expect, or attempt it, would be then trying for a contradiction in Nature. Ridiculous! As well would it be aiming at composing an antidote against the general decay of humanity, and even death.

WHEN a man complains of a malady, we may sometime, I will even say, *very often* remove the present cause. But, if the patient is an old man, we leave him so still, for we cannot bring the years of his life ten degrees back, or, in plain terms, we cannot recall youth.—What then, will you say, are we to hope from your MEDICINE?—Here it is.—My constant object has been to follow Nature and assist her in her struggles, not to forestep her. Thus, instead of making use of those misjudged methods which tend rather to weaken the human body, my sole endeavours are to strenthen it: and such therefore, I answer, are the effects of, and *what you are to hope*, AND EXPECT *from*, my *medicine*. It is an antidote against the foul humours

humours of the blood; and, in its process, it acts by the most gentle methods which can be imagined. It is elegant to the eyes, and, in general, not unpleasant to the taste. It requires no confinement, only moderation in diet: and, when assisted by due and reasonable exercise, it most surprisingly restores the tone of the stomach, and, thereby, promotes digestion. It strengthens the nerves, and opens the obstructions in the most minute passages; which, therefore, may very well intitle it to the rank of one of the most powerful and efficacious deobstruents which ever was invented.

I AM convinced that I should have much more respect paid me, when a patient comes with a complaint, did I make the parade of ordering him to take a physick to purge him first; then, give him an ointment to rub the part outwardly, &c, &c, instead of telling him plainly, and without emphasis, *take these DROPS* only.—As simple as my method seems to be, it is no less sure of giving relief: and the most difficult task I meet with is only the preventing people from being in a hurry in taking the bottles, but to go by, and adhere
here

here strictly to, the directions given in the *bill*, which always accompanies them.

BEFORE I was myself convinced of all this, and could bring this MEDICINE to its present improved state, it is undoubtedly true I committed many errors, which nothing less than my DISPENSARY could instruct me in, and point me out, the method of rectifying, by the many opportunities I had of seeing such a variety of cases. But now, such is the present state of that MEDICINE, that I am really tempted to think it is come to the highest pitch of perfection it is susceptible of; and that it is capable, indeed, of answering the greatest expectations.

As for counterfeiting it, it will not bear it, without a visible alteration in the effects, or being attended with very bad and dangerous consequences: an accident which, with mine, that is to say, with that prepared by myself, I have both the boldness and satisfaction to affirm never happened, nor can possibly happen, provided the *bill of direction* be faithfully adhered to. And, on the contrary, the efficacy is even such that a single large bottle has
often

often proved quite sufficient to make a trial and be able to judge of the merits of it, in cases of *Rheumatisms* *, *Gout*, *Leprosy*, *Scurvy*, *Ulcers*, *Nervous Complaints*, &c. An observation which I am so much the more authorized to make, and to take advantage of, as I am convinced none ever took it, but after having tried before all the resources which the art and skill of the faculty could invent, and therefore after Nature had been put to the rack to exert all her powers, and was quite exhausted.

As I never neglect to acquaint the public with the *dates* of the several cures, and (whenever I can learn it) the number of bottles each took to be compleated, it is easy to be satisfied of the truth of my assertion, however astonishing as it may appear to the reader; a surprise which cannot be greater, at any rate, than that of the patients themselves who have hitherto experienced them, and my own. Yet my natural candour does not permit me to deny that all are not so happy as to meet with the same desired success. It is true

* As I consider the *rheumatism*, except that arising accidentally from catching a cold, to be in a great measure owing to the same causes as the *gout*, it is the reason why I say but little on that disorder in particular.

that some *, have taken the DROPS a great many months before they were radically cured ; though, from a state of decay and impotency, they were, in a few weeks, able to get their bread.—And again, in the GOUT and RHEUMATISM a great deal can be said in behalf of these DROPS, and, I believe, equal at least to any pretender : yet, as in Mr. *Kelly's* case, some may have a relapse ; but no sooner do they apply to the MEDICINE again, but they find instant relief.

IN the GOUT I could apply many an anodyne, liniment †, vegetable oil, &c, &c. But, I
am

* See their cases at the end of this work.

† There is no disorder, perhaps, which requires a greater care, and a more judicious treatment, than the GOUT ; and none to which so little attention is paid. The general notion, which people have so strongly imbibed, that the GOUT is incurable, has, by the countenance it has received from the writings of many of the most celebrated and able physicians, raised such a strong prejudice in the minds of the generality, that they are totally deaf to all reasoning, lost to all hope, and so strongly persuaded that no relief can be expected from art, and the whole must be left to the work of nature alone, that PATIENCE AND FLANNEL is become quite proverbial among the ARTHRITICKS. In consequence of which, it is amazing to see what pains the patients take to increase the inflammation, by wrapping up their
R feet

am so sensible that these outward applications, far from being able to destroy the cause, might
much

feet in wool, then drinking *Madeira* wines, and other hot, or spicy, draughts, under the false and erroneous notion of keeping the Gout from their stomach. So that, when the feet and ancles are swelled to such a pitch, that it causes, in some measure, another additional disorder, and that, by the acuteness of the pains then felt by the patient, his life is become a burthen, and death losing its hideous face would seem more acceptable; if, to soothe the pain, you come and propose him an ointment, or a liniment, to be applied outwardly on the afflicted part and ease it, your offer is received, if not quite with contempt, at least with terror, as if you meant to poison him. Notwithstanding, and though (as it appears plainly enough by what I have said, page 85 of this pamphlet) I am no friend myself to ointments, I cannot help declaring, that under such predicaments, and in circumstances of this kind, it is wise and prudent to use such as will ease the pains, remove the obstructions, and dissolve those thick deposits of the disorder, which turn into chalky concretions; should even the effect be to repel that matter into the stream of the blood. And the reason I give is this. Whatever may be taken interiorly, for the cure of the Gout, is slow in its progress; and, when it comes round to the part afflicted it has not the power to restore fluidity to those concretions already petrified; and, by those concretions, a patient may remain lame all his life afterwards. Therefore, if the ointment is assisted by such interior medicines, as are capable to cope with the principles of the disorders, and expel them from the mass of the blood, there is incontestably no sort of bad consequence to be feared from an outward application of that kind which composes the patient, gives him instantaneous ease, and procures him rest; since, when the disorder flies back, it is immediately encountered by another powerful enemy (the medicine) which prevents
the

much more likely make me run a great risk of repelling the poisonous matter to a more noble part, that nothing, except the most excruciating pains, can ever induce me to comply with the request, when it is desired from me.

A SARSAPARILLA drink, with an addition of fennel seeds, I often recommend, indeed, as an assistant; but very different I order it from the faculty in general, with whose practice of boiling this drug and the bark decoction so long, I totally disagree: because, it is obvious that the freest particles always evaporate first, by

the further havocks and mischiefs, which undoubtedly might ensue from the repulsion. In such cases, therefore, and in no other, I mean when a violent and intolerable inflammation attends the fits of a Gout, and proper medicines are used inwardly to destroy the cause, I say that ointments and liniments may be used; I recommend them, and I do use them. And to shew, more demonstratively, how consistent I am with myself, and that no little nibbling critick should have afterwards any opportunity to handle it into a contradiction, I further declare, in a more explicit manner still, that, were those *Gouty* inflammations of a nature ever to come to a breaking, or a suppuration, I would then oppose ointments with as much vigour as I do in the case of scorbutic eruptions; because, under such circumstances, it would visibly be shutting a door which nature herself had opened for the disorder to come out at. Thus I believe I have now made myself quite understood.

ebullition. My Sarsaparilla drink will keep many weeks good, by adding a due proportion of spirit to it. Thus will it also be clearer, and more pleasant to the taste, than the general drink of that species.—In summer time, a cooling acid drink *, when it agrees with the constitution, is likewise very proper, and may take the place of *Sarsaparilla*. And it will be found generally to agree, as most of the GOUTS are of an *alkaline* nature.

UPON the whole, I hope no one will refuse me the justice to allow that my method of treating the afflicted is rational, and agree-

* It is proper here to inform patients, that there are two sorts of *acids*, of distinct and different natures, which should be well understood by them. One is wholesome, and advantageous to the preservation of life and health, as much as the other is deadly. This last we breed ourselves in our stomach, and is the effect of a weak constitution. The first we are furnished with by Providence itself, who has taken care to spread it plentifully on the face of the earth, in all the fruits and vegetables, to counterbalance the alkaline quality of our animal food, and assist in its dissolution by digestion. Who can help admiring the hand of the Creator in all his works, when one considers the sagacious combination of contraries with which it is interspersed, for the preservation of the whole, as this case is a most striking example : since the hottest climes, such as the south of France, West Indies, and other places of that kind, more apt to produce alkaline constitutions, are all most largely stocked with acid vegetables, such as *grapes, lemons, oranges, ananas, &c, &c !*

able to the process of Nature, which it always assists, and never contradicts, nor opposes: and that no hurt can accrue from my REMEDY, if taken according to the *directions* given in the *bill*.—Indeed, its safety is such that *children* and PREGNANT WOMEN * MAY TAKE IT WITHOUT *the least risk or danger*.

AFTER all, every man must rest upon his own judgment, and appeal to the rectitude of his principles and good intention, for all the effects which can result from what he composes. For, the most able and experienced physician has no just reason to pride himself for the most uninterrupted series of successes: since all his skill and art will always fall infinitely short of all the various accidents and new disorders to which mankind are liable, and will not even (as in the case of Dr. SYDENHAM) prevent him from falling himself, perhaps, a victim to the very disease †, in which he had given relief to thousands.

* Very different from a certain advertisement published in the *Morning-Post*, to the shame of the Nation and of the Legislature, by both of whom it is unnoticed, but unfortunately NOT so by those for the murder and destruction of whom it is calculated.

† The Gout.

P O S T S C R I P T.

I HAVE lately * found myself under the necessity of raising the price of my DROPS, from *three* to *four*, and from *five* to *seven* shillings a bottle: but, I hope no reasonable person will think of disproving me in that step, when they consider at what vast expence I must have been in making the different trials necessary to bring them to the present state of improvement to which I have brought them, and especially since the year 1773, when I first opened the DISPENSARY *for the poor*, which, ever since I did, and now do still, continue to keep open for their relief: and when I affirm, upon the word of honour, that I send every day these same DROPS, GRATIS, by *gallons, kegs, quarts, pints* and *small bottles*, to every part of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, there to be distributed, by my agents and correspondents, to *such* of their neighbourhood as are afflicted, and unable to procure themselves relief in paying.

* This very year, on January the 1st, 1776.



A P P E N D I X.

A PLAN OF THE DISPENSARY FOR THE POOR, ESTABLISHED IN 1773, AND EVER SINCE SUPPORTED WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SUBSCRIPTION.

AS I have often had occasion to make mention of my DISPENSARY, of the time when I first opened it, and of my uninterrupted continuance of it, ever since its establishment, to this very day; I think I shall not be blamed, if, to prevent being suspected of having propagated a mere puff, I submit to the public a short SKETCH, or PLAN, of the form I have given it, that they may more easily gather some opinion of its present utility and advantages, as well as of those it might, by improvement, be susceptible of, in time.

Two years after I had opened it, in March 1775, I renewed my invitation to the poor, and brought that same DISPENSARY under the strict regulations and *formulæ* under which it now stands, and in the manner following.

S P I L S B U R Y ' s D I S P E N S A R Y.

A N
I N V I T A T I O N T O T H E P O O R
A F F L I C T E D W I T H E I T H E R T H E
S C U R V Y , G O U T , R H E U M A T I S M , L E P R O S Y , E V I L , &c.

March 12th, 1775.

THE Poor making, by their number, the greatest, as, by their labour and industry, the most considerable and useful, part of the community, it behoves the man of sense and feeling to pay the greatest regard to their welfare; and the physician is bound, by the laws both of humanity and patriotism, to give them not the smallest share of his attention. On those principles, I have never neglected mentioning in the ADVERTISEMENTS of my
Medicines

Medicines that *I treated the Poor* GRATIS; and I dare confidently to trust in, and rely upon, the candour [and integrity of the public, that no one, either in town or in the country, can rise to say that, on personal, or epistolary application, I ever did refuse, or neglect, to give, or send, my medicines; when they made their indigent circumstances known to me.

BUT, here, I must beg to explain myself in a more clear and explicit manner. By the POOR, are generally understood two classes of people, viz. such as are intirely destitute, and another sort which would not like to be ranked among them, though, on account of the smallness of their yearly stipends, they cannot afford to pay an equal price with people of fortune.—To the former *, I absolutely give my attendance, advice, and medicines GRATIS, to the latter †, at HALF PRICE.

THEREFORE, as the happy success my medicines have, for these many years past, met with, among the most opulent part of this nation; and the great encouragement I must acknowledge I continue daily to receive from that side, never did, nor ever will, swell me with such an impertinent pride, as to make me think myself above my business: and, as I am fully impressed, on the contrary, with a due sense of gratitude for my past and present success, and the many favours hitherto conferred on me, I cannot better testify how deeply affected I am by them, than by considering the true merits of my avocation, and the real advantage I am hereby enabled to derive from it, by the sweet opportunity it gives me of relieving an immense number of my poor and distressed fellow-creatures. Many, indeed, who labour under some one or other of the above-mentioned disorders, not having the means of procuring themselves the very necessaries of life, can still less be supposed to think of a costly remedy against their excruciating pains. Therefore, fully sensible how very serviceable and useful this far pre-numerous part of the community (the poor and industrious) are to society, I do hereby publicly DECLARE and GIVE NOTICE, that, through a principle of humanity and tenderness for them, I bind myself for ever to keep the following contract, and articles of agreement with them, viz.

* It is to be observed that the POOR did at first receive the DROPS *gratis* all the year round, as some do even now: but the great number increasing daily so fast that I soon discovered a great abuse by people who had no real complaints, and who sold them at a low price to others, after having themselves received them for nothing, I was obliged to throw some check in their way, and I took the resolution to make them pay *one shilling* admittance, for which they receive a *ticket* for six weeks, at the end of which term, they may renew it, if requisite, for one month, on paying *another shilling*.

† To these sort of people I often grant the the DROPS at a *third* and a *fourth* of their price.

I. THAT on Tuesdays and Fridays, from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon, I will give ADVICE and ATTENDANCE GRATIS, at my own house, to POOR PERSONS of either sex, and of any age.

II. THAT all the poor recommended by house-keepers, by people of rank and fortune, under whose protection they may happen to be, or duly provided with a certificate signed by the church wardens and overseers of their respective parishes, and attending at my house, on either of the two above-mentioned days, shall receive both my advice and my medicines GRATIS *.

III. THAT they who, though not opulent, could not submit to be ranked positively among the poor and indigent class, and find themselves, however, on account of their small income, the precariousness of their business, or the large number of their family, unable to pay the price these medicines have been fixed at, shall meet with tender treatment, and have a proper regard paid to their circumstances, by admitting them on paying only one half of the price †.

IV. THAT for the sake of those who, living in the country at some distance from London, cannot without interfering with the emoluments of their week's work, attend on any of the above-mentioned days, the same indulgence shall be given to them on Sunday morning till twelve o'clock.—— And if it become burthensome or expensive to them to take often such an excursion, I shall take care to provide them at once with such a sufficient quantity of bottles, as will make the frequency of their attendance less necessary.

V. THAT all letters (post paid) sent for advice, shall have a punctual answer returned to them; and, with proper vouchers of inability to pay the full price, or any price at all, those who live in the most remote parts of this kingdom, shall enjoy the very same advantages, as those who are on the spot, and have the ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS sent to them GRATIS, on paying the mere carriage of the same ‡.

* Under the restrictions just mentioned in the precedent note.

† And even a *third* or a *fourth* as before mentioned in the precedent note.

‡ But now every one of my agents is authorized to grant these advantages to such of their neighbours as stand under the same predicaments as here described, and are provided with medicines in casks for that purpose.



S P E C I M E N S

OF THE VARIOUS FORMULÆ, TO BE OBSERVED BEFORE AND AFTER
GAINING ADMITTANCE TO THE SAID DISPENSARY,

IN ORDER to be admitted to the aforesaid DISPENSARY, the petitioner, upon application, is provided by me with the following printed copy of a *Patient's case* filled up in his presence, which he is to sign before a witness or two, and on the back of which is a letter of mine to the *church-wardens* and *overseers* of his parish, and underneath their *certificate* ready printed with *blanks* to be filled up, signed and attested by them, in the following manner,

T H E P A T I E N T S ' s C A S E .

THE under written by Trade
in the Parish of in the County of declares,
that has for for these past laboured under a
attended with for which
has been treated without effect.
Wherefore, having being advised to try the use of SPILSBURY'S ANTI-SCORBUTIC DROPS, and being unable to afford paying the Price at which they are fixed, humbly craves the Indulgence of being admitted at
the said F. SPILSBURY'S DISPENSARY as a PAUPER; and, upon producing a CERTIFICATE duly authenticated by the Overseers of the Parish aforesaid, as a Voucher of actual and truly indigent Circumstances,
thereby to enjoy the Benefit accruing from the charitable Distribution of the said DROPS, so generously offered by the Author in his INVITATION TO
THE POOR of the 12th Marth 1775, in Consequence of which is
encouraged to make the present Application, and petitions for obtaining the
said DROPS GRATIS. Dated this Day of in the
Year 177

*Signed in the Presence of the following
Witnesses.*

To the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Parish of
in the County of

GENTLEMEN,

177

FRANCIS SPILSBURY of the DISPENSARY for the Poor afflicted with either the *Gout, Scurvy, Leprosy, Evil, Rheumatism, &c.* established at *No. 5, Mount-Row, on the Surry Side of Westminster-Bridge,* having been applied to by the above-mentioned
in a Case of in Order to be admitted as a *Pauper,*
and, in that Quality to receive his *Drops, Advice and Attendance Gratis,* requests the Favour of your authenticating in the following *Certificate,* the Veracity of the said Petitioner's alledged indigent Circumstances, and whether you think to be a true Object of Charity. In doing which you will oblige

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

C E R T I F I C A T E

O F

ADMISSION AT SPILSBURY'S DISPENSARY, FOR A PAUPER.

WE whose Names are under-written, Overseers and Church-Wardens of the Parish of in the County of
certify that by Trade is really a
Pauper, afflicted with and in that
Quality an Object truly worthy being admitted at Mr. SPILSBURY'S DISPENSARY for the Poor, there to partake of his charitable Distribution. To attest the Veracity of which, WE have signed and delivered to the present Certificate, this Day of in the Year 177

NEXT to this, when the Petitioner returns with his certificate in due form, he is entered into a Register ready printed with blanks, and in the following double form,

Anno 177

No.

E N T R Y.

THIS day a
 Pauper, by Trade
 of the Parish of in
 the County of has
 been admitted for Weeks,
 on the recommendation of
 to be treated for
 at SPILSBURY'S DISPENSARY;
 and there, at the same time, to re-
 ceive the ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS
 GRATIS.

N. B. *This Ticket has been re-
 newed on the day of
 for Weeks.*

Anno 177

PER CONTRA.

THIS day the said
 has been dis-
 charged from the Dispensary by reason
 of his

RECAPITULATION.	
Discharge.	Disorder
	Entered
	Discharged
	Cure per- { in weeks. formed { with bottles.

THEN they receive the following ticket, engraved on a card, as a proof of their admittance and title to the medicine, being delivered to them gratis.

Anno 177	No.
T HE Bearer	a Pauper, of the
Parish of	is admitted for
Weeks, on the recommendation of	to be
treated for	at SPILSBURY'S DISPENSARY,
and there at the same time shall receive the	ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS
GRATIS.	
By order of the Proprietor	
Ticket of admittance.	

BUT when a mere indulgence is granted to certain people on account, and in proportion, of their unfavourable circumstances, their names is only entered into a Register, somewhat similar to the other, but printed in red, and conformable to the following specimen.

Anno 177

No.

T HIS day
was admitted to the indulgence of
ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS, on account of h
by trade
Shilling per every Bottle of our
unfavourable circumstances.

Recapitulation.

<i>This Grant good for</i>		<i>Bottles.</i>
<i>Renewed for</i>		<i>ditto</i>
<i>Disorder</i>		
<i>Patient entered</i>		
<i>Discharged by reason of</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>day of</i>
<i>Cure performed</i>	<i>{ in</i>	<i>Weeks.</i>
	<i>{ with</i>	<i>Bottles.</i>

AND after being thus admitted and registered, they receive the following
Ticket engraved also in red, on a card bearing the same number and date.

Anno 177	SPILSBURY'S DISPENSARY.	No.
<p><i>A</i>N indulgence of <i>Shillings is hereby granted per every Bottle</i> of the ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS to in consideration of <i>unfavorable circumstances.—Dated this</i> day of <i>177</i> <div style="text-align: right;"><i>By order of the Proprietor.</i></div> This Ticket good for Bottles</p>		

HAVING thus finished the account of the plan on which my PUBLIC DISPENSARY is conducted, I beg leave to introduce a few of the most recent cures I have had the happiness to perform by means of my medicine, and which are all so well authenticated that I hope they will leave no ground for the least suspicion of fraudulence and subrepticiousness behind them in the mind of the reader. I shall therefore, give them as they stand in one of my hand bills, with the copy of that very hand bill itself, which is as follows.

SPILS-

 SPILSBURY'S IMPROVED ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS,

Prepared only by FRANCIS SPILSBURY, Chymist, No. 5, Mount-Row, on the Surry-Side of Westminster-Bridge; who at his own Expence opened a Dispensary for the Poor, in the Year 1773, where Numbers have been relieved gratis by his Medicine, after being discharged from the Hospitals as incurable.

THESE DROPS raised on January 1st, 1776, to four and seven shillings a bottle, are proved, by experience, to be one of the first medicines now extant in these kingdoms, for the radical cure of the *Scurvy, Gout, Rheumatism, Evil, Children's Eruptions, Ulcers, Leprosy, Nervous Complaints, Humours after the Small Pox and Measles, &c.* Their efficacy exceeds every thing of the kind which ever did precede them; and whatever has hitherto been discovered which proved of any utility and benefit in those complaints, has been happily united and combined, in them, to compose one compleat remedy. This must account for that great superiority of cures in point of number and perfection, performed in a much shorter time than *any other person* ever could, or *can even now*, produce in similar cases; since *one single* bottle of these Drops has *often* proved *sufficient* for a cure in a recent case, and *always so*, for a trial, in an inveterate one. An incontestable proof, undoubtedly, of the merit of this medicine in the above-mentioned disorders. Were not these Drops really held in the same esteem by the public, that truly impartial judge, and generous rewarder of the pains and labours of those whose aim is to please it, and to deserve its favours, the proprietor would not have been able to raise them twice successively in two years, in order to assist himself in the support of a very expensive DISPENSARY for the *Servants, Mechanics, and Poor*, set up at the Proprietor's own and sole expence, in the year 1773, and ever since kept up on the same generous and disinterested principles with such care and assiduity that by the *printed Register Book* of the said Dispensary it appears that, during the course of the *two last* years only, no less than 493 persons were relieved, many of whom had been deemed *incurable* at the Hospitals, and *as such* discharged.

N. B. THE process of operation of these DROPS, in procuring a cure, and the chief tendency, indeed, they have is, instead of *enervating* a patient, as other medicines in the following cases always do, to *strengthen* on the contrary the constitution, and, by stimulating the principles of the disorder, to give them an action which might assist that mended constitution in throwing them off from the body.

THE following seven cures are new, and were *all* published *this year*, before a *certain Person* had published *one*:

MR. RANDAL DORMOND, of the 10th ward, Chelsea, afflicted fourteen years with the gout and rheumatism, often so bad as to deprive him of the use of his limbs, after having tryed many medicines in vain, was cured by twelve large bottles. *August 10, 1775.*

A TRADESMAN in the city of Peterborough, who had several holes in his legs, after having been at the salt water and found no benefit, was cured by taking six bottles only of Mr. Spilisbury's drops. Witness Mr. Horden, bookseller, of Peterborough, Northampton. *August 26, 1775.*

MRS. MARY CLAY, afflicted with a leprosy on the arms and body; some of the spots as broad as a half-crown, which scaled off and then came again, cured by twenty small bottles. For particulars enquire at the Seven Stars, Bromley, near Bow, Middlesex. *Dec. 22, 1775.*

CAPTAIN MILLAR, at No. 12, Dean-street, Shadwell, London, of the Mary, lately returned from Virginia, reading Mrs. Taylor's cure of nine holes in her leg by five bottles, tried these drops, and is now cured, to the surprise of himself and friends, by six large bottles only, of one large ulcer, and two small ones in his leg, of five years standing, which had baffled all the efforts of the faculty. *Jan. 2, 1776.*

February 11, 1776.

A GENTLEMAN in the neighbourhood of Chester, far advanced in life, laboured under an inveterate scurvy more than twenty-eight years; by obstructions, and at different times it caused a rheumatic gout, great lassitude, wandering pains, scurvy blotches, eruptions, yellow jaundice, and other illness; he tried many internal and external antiscorbutics, without effect; he is now free, in appearance, of the scurvy and other complaints, by taking, according to direction, SPILSBURY'S ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS. Any person may be satisfied of the truth of the fact, and the gentleman's name, by applying to Mr. Pool, bookseller, in Chester, or to Mr. Spilisbury.

To Mr, S P I L S B U R Y, Chymist,

S I R,

Feb. 4, 1776.

I SUFFERED several years under the most violent scurvy, which broke out particularly in great fissures, with scurf on my hands, like the bark of a tree, which not only rendered them a sad spectacle, but deprived me, in a great measure, of their use; and after having applied to several eminent Physicians in vain, (what is no less extraordinary than true) I was cured by taking only five small bottles of your drops.

I am, Sir, with respect, &c.

MARY WEATHERILL.

At Mrs. Underwood's, No. 8, Broad-street, Carnaby-market, London.

Another

Another remarkable Cure in Edinburgh.

I HENRIETTA PATERSON, Step-daughter to William Gray, Taylor, in Edinburgh, aged sixteen years, have been troubled with a most inveterate scorbutic humour in my feet, for upwards of ten years past, to such a degree, that one of them broke out in large holes, and continued running, and casting large scales, like bark, notwithstanding the many applications of different medicines, by the most eminent physicians of this place, all without the least effect; till about nine months ago. I was recommended to Mr. Elliot, to make trial of Mr. Spilsbury's directions. I had not used two bottles, till I began to find the good effect of that medicine, which has continued daily to such a degree, that I am now quite recovered.

HENRIETTA PATERSON.

Any person doubting the truth of the above, may be fully satisfied, by applying to the said H. Paterfon, at my house in Law's-plain, Stone-close, Canongate, Edinburgh.

Edinburgh, March 9, 1776.

WM. GRAY.

The above is likewise attested as a fact, by

John Carstairs,	} Surgeons, Edinburgh,
George Wright,	
Thomas Matthew,	} Elders, College Kirk, Edinburgh,
Robert Walker,	

An extraordinary Cure of the GOUT.

To Mr. SPILSBURY.

S I R,

I SHALL always think myself obliged to acknowledge the very great benefit I have received by taking your Drops, which has had a happy effect, by relieving me from disorders that had reduced me to the lowest ebb. Although I made use of and took a multitude of prescriptions of some of the most eminent physicians in London, likewise several bottles of another advertised medicine, made three journeys to Margate without receiving any relief whatever, and was almost in despair of ever being cured: when happily I was advised to make a trial of your Drops, which have given me new life, though near fifty years of age, and have been upwards of five years most violently afflicted with the RHEUMATIC GOUT, and SCURVY, which had enfeebled me to such a degree, that I was not able to dress or undress myself for upwards of eight months; but am now thank God, happily restored to my health, and strength; and being very desirous that the public should know where to apply for relief in such cases as mine, (with respect to which the faculty are as yet in the dark) I will do myself the pleasure to wait on any gentleman or lady, to give any further information required, and am, with the greatest respect, Sir, Your most humble servant,

Harrow, Salisbury-court, Fleet-street,

J. KELLY.

London, May 3, 1775.

I JOHN

I JOHN KNIGHT, Shoemaker, near the turnpike, in Stroud, Kent, was afflicted five years with a scorbutic humour in the hollow of my arms, almost round, and my shoulders were covered with it, which was attended with excessive itching, and a running humour as clear as water, which scalded and corroded other parts, and stiffened my shirt like buckram, and the skin scaled off with white scurf and then came again, attended with a fever: I was scarce able to do any work; my face was full of large pimples: In short my complaint was too bad to be described. By taking four small bottles of Mr. Spilbury's Drops I found surprizing relief, and by continuing them, I am cured of those complaints.—Any person may be satisfied of the truth by applying to me as above, or to Mr. Fisher, Bookseller, at Rochester, who saw me in my miserable condition, when I applied to him for the drops. *July 23, 1775.*
JOHN KNIGHT.

JANE READ, servant to Mr. Cranston, master of one of the city of Edinburgh's schools, was grievously afflicted with a most inveterate scurvy, so that her whole body was almost covered over with a very thick scurf, which came off at times in large pieces, and immediately grew as thick as formerly; and having been informed of the happy effects of Spilbury's Antiscorbutic medicine, and that he was so charitable as to order Mr. Elliot to give it gratis to two patients that were not able to pay for it, application was made for her, and by the use of it alone, she is now perfectly cured of that disorder. And from gratitude to Mr. Spilbury, as also for the information of others who may labour under the like disorder, she desires this may be made public.

N. B. If any person shall doubt of the truth of the above, by applying to her at Mr. Cranston's, teacher of English in Niddrie's Wynd, they may be fully satisfied. The above is also attested for truth by
Edinburgh, *Dec. 10, 1774.* JAMES CRANSTON.

N. B. As a further proof of the efficacy of these Drops in this country, any person calling at Mr. Elliot's, may have the perusal of letters from several persons, who would not chuse to appear in print.

S I R,

A FEW years ago I got a bad surfeit, by drinking cold water, (when hot) which soon broke out in an inflammatory rash on my arms and other parts of my body, which itched intolerably. Having tried various medicines, with the assistance of one of the hospitals, all to no purpose, I heard of the extraordinary cures your drops had performed. I tried some of them. Happy for me, eight bottles cured me, without trouble or pain. I am, Sir, with gratitude, your humble servant.

Nov. 4, 1773.

ST. JACKSON.

Another remarkable Cure of the Gout, by six Bottles only.

To Mr. SPILSBURY, Chymist.

S I R,

May 26, 1776.

FOR more than six months I was not able to make any use of my hands, even to feed myself, or move my hat, through that most excruciating complaint called the GOUT, which had reduced me to the most languishing condition, and almost to death; and, being above seventy years old, I despaired of a remedy, when fortunately I was recommended to you by a Lady of character, who advised me to make use of your Drops.—I had no sooner taken the first bottle, but I got new life, and by six large only, I found myself perfectly cured (though it was in the hard frost) to my great satisfaction, and the surprise of all those who knew me.

MY Wife, who had long been subject to violent Rheumatic pains in both her arms, was also cured by two bottles of your medicine: with pleasure and with gratitude we subscribe our names, and will satisfy any one concerning the particulars thereof at the Wheat-sheaf, in Glanville-street, Rathbone-Place, St. Pancras, London.

THOMAS and MARGARET CORKRAN.

To Mr. SPILSBURY, Chymist, No. 5, Mount-Row, Westminster-Bridge, Proprietor of the *Antiscorbutic Drops*.

THIS is to certify, that I Thomas Roach, son of Patrick Roach, of the parish of Clonallan, in the county of Down, was afflicted for several years past, with an obstinate scorbutic disorder all over my body and arms, for which I had taken many medicines without finding any benefit, and from the virulence of the disorder had almost despaired of recovery; but being recommended to try your antiscorbutic Drops, I found six bottles of that valuable medicine produced a convincing proof of its surprising efficacy, by completing a cure to the astonishment of every person that had seen the state of the disorder; it is now several months since I quitted taking the drops, and I have not found the least symptoms of its returning. Given under my hand, October 29, 1773.

THO. ROACH.

Witnesses, John Caulfield, merchant, and Robert Stevenson, bookseller, in Newry, Ireland.

Other recent CURES, by taking the ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS.

S I R,

July 23, 1775.

By taking five bottles of your drops I am cured of nine holes in my right leg, after having advice and been at large expences with the faculty, without success, until reading in the papers of the great cures your drops have performed, which induced me to try them. You have my leave to publish this. Witness my hand,

JANE TAYLOR.

Jarvis House, Sun Tavern Fields, St. George's in the East.

September

September 5th, 1775.

MRS. ELIZABETH FORSTER cured of a bad scurvy, and other disagreeable complaints, by taking only six bottles of Mr. Spillbury's Drops.

Witness Mrs. Hall, No. 103, Beaufort-Buildings, London.

LIKEWISE a Gentleman's maid servant in Newcastle upon Tyne, afflicted with the scurvy that her hands became so much contracted as to disable her from working; and on applying to a gentleman of the faculty, he told her she had no remedy but keeping her hands from water; but hearing of the efficacy of Mr. Spillbury's Drops, she took only two of his bottles, which restored her hands to their former state, and she is now perfectly able to perform her work.—The truth of this may be known by applying to Mr. Saint, Printer of the Newcastle paper.

Newcastle, April 20, 1775.

To Mr. SPILLSBURY.

S I R,

Jan. 10, 1774.

THE kindness I have received at your hands (in curing me of an inveterate scorbutic disorder by your Antiscorbutic Drops, when I was in the midst of despair, having tried many medicines in vain) demands the tribute of a grateful acknowledgment, and for an encouragement to others, I will relate my case. I was afflicted near seven years, chiefly on my left arm, from my elbow to the wrist, which formed a crust and a continual scalding humour ran down to my finger ends, the same on my neck, a large place, which ran to my waist, and itched so intolerably that I scratched in my sleep to such a degree, that I was frequently raw; my stomach was weak, and in so poor a state that almost every day there came off half a pint of clear water, and continually drowsy; every one that knew me said I was in a deep consumption. After I had taken four large bottles my stomach was strengthened, and I mended daily, and by taking twenty I am perfectly restored to my health, and free from all complaints, as hundreds in the neighbourhood can testify.

I am, Sir, your humble Servant,

WM. TURLEY, Shoemaker, Turnmill-street.

Witnesses, Mr. Evans, at the Turk's-Head, Turnmill-street, and Edward Harrison, Well-street, Oxford-road.

To Mr. SPILLSBURY, Chymist.

March 5th, 1774.

About eight years ago a bad irritating humour broke out on my body, arms, and legs, in small pimples, which itched intolerably and kept growing worse; so that the humour got so strong as to affect my eye-sight, attended with a bad head-ach and a pimpled face, accompanied with a lost appetite and a fever: after having tried various medicines to little purpose, I was advised to try your Universal Antiscorbutic Drops; after I had taken two bottles I found relief in my eyes and head, but the medicine then forced the humour

out in a number of large boils on my body, some of which were as broad as a crown piece, and discharged a foul corrosive matter for seven weeks, and then healed up gradually. I continued taking the drops, which created an appetite, and agreed with me very well, and purified my blood, that I am now entirely free from all complaints, having taken not more than eleven bottles. Any person calling at No. 5, Charing-cross, opposite Northumberland-house, shall be satisfied of the truth of the above.

I am, Sir, your obliged humble servant,

JOHN VALENTINE.

ALSO Thomas Granby, four years old, son of Mr. Granby, at No. 2, in Britannia-row, Lambeth, near Westminster-bridge, was terribly afflicted with a bad ulcerated head, and other swellings and pimples on his body, cured by two bottles only: at the taking the first bottle the sores discharged a foul corrosive matter, which smelt intolerably, and then healed up gradually, as usual in those complaints.

April 2, 1774.

A GENTLEMAN cured of scurfy eruptions, by six bottles, only. Witness Mrs. Sturch, bookseller, Newport, Isle of Wight. May 12, 1774.

THIS is to certify, that my daughter of fourteen months old, was cured (by one 5s. bottle of Spillsbury's Antiscorbutic Drops) of a very bad swelling on the ear, of several weeks standing, which run a foul matter, and the humour crept along the cheek with a white scurf, which peeled off, and then came again.

May 14, 1774.

Witness my hand, JOHN CRAWFORD.

At the Castle, near the Turnpike, Westminster-bridge, Surry.

Mrs. Jane Stevenson, of Stamford Lincoln, was troubled with the scurvy, attended with lowness of spirits, rheumatic pains, and loss of appetite, for near two years, was cured by five bottles. Witnesses H. Stevenson and Wm. Royce, bookseller, of Stamford.

June 15, 1774.

LIKEWISE a gentleman of independent fortune of Peterborough, cured of an inveterate scurvy, which had rendered his life miserable, by a few bottles of Mr. Spillsbury's Drops. For particulars, enquire at Mr. Horden's, bookseller, in Peterborough.

January 20th, 1775.

Mr. Sagoe, keeper of the toll at the obelisk, Blackfriars bridge, was very much afflicted with the gout in his feet, but was so much relieved by one 5s. bottle, and a decoction of sarsaparilla at night, that in a few days he was able to wear a common shoe, to the surprize of all his acquaintance.

March 5, 1774.

THIS

THIS is to certify, that I Abraham Geers, of Gray's Inn Lane, Holborn, London, have been afflicted for several years with an obstinate scorbutic disorder, attended with great itching on my body and arms, for which I had taken many medicines in vain; and from the malignancy and the continuance of the complaint, had despaired of relief; for the humour had caused a pain in the head, with deafness, for nine months, which rendered me incapable of my business; but by the blessing of God, and taking ten small bottles of Mr. Spillsbury's Antiscorbutic Drops, am perfectly cured of my deafness and the above disorders.

October 8, 1774.

Witnesses to the said cure,

Gilbert Stevens, Tash-street, Gray's-inn lane.

John Cotter, in Fox-court, Gray's-inn lane.

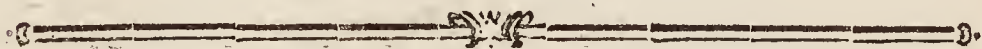
I WILLIAM COLSON, wright, in Portsburgh, (or West Port) having a daughter of twelve years of age, who, upwards of three years ago, by a fall, got her leg scratched a little above her ankle, which, in a short time, caused an inflammation, which spread for several inches, and at last formed into an ulcer or boil, which gathered and broke alternately for several months; and after trying in vain most of the doctors in Edinburgh, I at last procured from Mr. Elliot, bookseller, in Edinburgh, some of Mr. Spillsbury's Universal Antiscorbutic Drops, and began to use them in the month of January last, and have continued using them, according to his directions, till the present time; by the use of which, and the blessing of God, she is now perfectly recovered. Out of gratitude to Mr. Spillsbury, and compassion for those in like distress, I think it my duty to make public this cure, that others may not lose the opportunity of being cured also.

Edinburgh, March 10, 1775.

WILLIAM COLSTON.

"That the above signed William Colston hath resided many years in the West-Kirk parish, and is of an unexceptionable character, is attested by us,

JOHN GIBSON, Minister. JOSEPH GAVIN, Elder."



July 27, 1776.

A DREADFUL SCORBUTIC CASE.

HOWEVER true certain facts may be in themselves, when attended with such strong marks of improbability as the following, a man of honour and delicacy, who has his veracity and reputation at heart, finds himself much embarrassed sometimes how to exculpate himself from the suspicion of quackery, by convincing the public of the rectitude of his principles, and scruples often to publish them. But, the subject of the present case is so well known to all his neighbourhood, and to the most eminent and distinguished personages of the faculty, that, I believe, I may rest with confidence

dance upon the numerous attestations of the one, and the candour and probity of the others, for the verification of the following well authenticated CURE.

THE CASE.

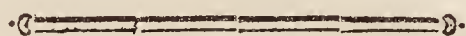
ON the 5th, of January, 1774, one JOHN PALMER, near fifty years of age, a Shoemaker, then living at Mr. *Monk's*, Tobacconist, and now removed to Mrs. *Sango's* muffin-shop, both in Grafton-street, St. Ann's, Soho, was taken out of his bed in a situation so deplorable, that those who accompanied him thought he had not many days longer to live, and brought to my *Dispensary* in a coach, at the expence of Mrs. *Millar*, now of the Cock, in the same Grafton-street. He had been afflicted with a *scurvy* for twelve years before that time, the first attack of which had notified itself by a pain in his left elbow, and had gradually spread and increased to the point of being so universally ulcerated, as to apply successively, though in vain, to several of our public hospitals. He had been *six weeks* in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, under the great Surgeon *POT*; *one month* an out-door patient of St. George's; *six months* in the Westminster Infirmary; and in these places he had been pronounced incurable. When I saw him, he had his face covered with holes and ulcers, as well as the inside of his mouth; and under his chin a cavity capable to conceal one's thumb. On his right thigh he had such a number of holes, as, according to his account, amounted to the number of *forty*, and some of which were capable to contain a pigeon's egg, that the sight inspired horror; he could wear no breeches, and had only a large piece of cloth to lap over, and tie with strings. His opposite arm (the left) in which the disorder had begun, was so uncommonly ulcerated, that, at first, he could not be prevailed upon to mention it, for fear of discouraging me from undertaking him: and, indeed, it was so bad that the very bones were eaten in; and, during the course of the medicamenting, worked out two splinters. On his breast there was another hole capable to admit a common hen's egg.

THE CURE.

I GAVE him immediately the quantity of *four* of my present seven-shillings bottles of ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS in a large one, to take according to the directions; and, by the time he had consumed them, he was able to stand upright, and to walk. I gave him then another similar quantity; after the use of which he was able to work. And, in about *nine* months, all the capital ulcers were healed, and his face, mouth and body, though even now most disfigured by frightful seams and scarifications, were already all sound and whole. As a few more ulcers remained, here and there, on his body, he has ever since continued taking the DROPS, which make two years and a half from the first; and, at this very day, has still, I confess, two or three little holes just under the seat in the breech. But this I ascribe to his sedentary life, and is undoubtedly the natural effect

of the pressure and friction resulting from his mode of employ; which, obliging him to sit all the day to earn his bread, and depriving him of a proper exercise, draw the humours where the velocity of the circulation of the blood is more impeded by the weight of the body. A circumstance which will, perhaps, obstruct the cure from ever coming to a more complete degree of perfection; though *in statu quo* it may be looked upon as both an object of surprize to many incredulous opponents, and comfort to those who are afflicted with so dreadful a disorder, however desperate be the pitch to which it may have arrived in them, so as not to lose all hopes of relief, after *such an example*. And, for the benefit of *such*, as well as for my own personal credit and interest, I hope those who will read this CASE and CURE, whether friends or foes, will not trust to this narrative, but enquire from the patient himself, and all the other persons whose names and directions have been heretofore mentioned in the beginning of it.

F. SPILSBURY.



N. B. These DROPS are sold in four and seven shillings new-moulded flat-square bottles, sealed with the emblem of Hope, and have the following inscription in a wave, viz. *Fra. Spilsbury, Proprietor of the Universal Antiscorbutic Drops*; they are sealed up, with wrappers printed in red, in folio bills, signed *Frs. Spilsbury*, containing an account of a great number of cures, to which the number of bottles is generally added, with the author's observations and advice on diet, and on the Scurvy, Goût, Rheumatism, nervous complaints, &c. They are sold at the following places in London:

By Mr. <i>Wilkie</i> , No. 71, St. Paul's Church Yard	Mr. <i>Corrall</i> , No. 6. Catherine-street, Strand
Mr. <i>Davenhill</i> , No. 30, Cornhill	Mr. <i>Hall</i> , No. 103, Strand
Mr. <i>Rothwell</i> , No. 47, New Bond-street	Messrs. <i>Houghton and Valescure</i> , at the Royal Exchange.

And at the following Places in the Country.

At Bath, by Mr. <i>Cruttwell</i>	At Liverpool, by Mr. <i>Gore</i>
At Bristol, by Mr. <i>Cocking</i>	At Newcastle, by <i>Saint and Slack</i>
At Bury, by Mrs. <i>Rogers</i>	At Newry, by <i>Stevenson</i>
At Cambridge, by Mr. <i>Fletcher</i>	At Norwich, by Mr. <i>Crouse</i>
At Chester, by Mr. <i>Pool</i>	At Oxford, by Mr. <i>Jackson</i>
At Dublin, by <i>James Hoey</i>	At Salisbury, by Mr. <i>Johnson</i>
At Edinburgh, by C. <i>Elliot</i>	At Sherborn, by Mr. <i>Goadby</i>
At Gloucester, by Mr. <i>Raikes</i>	And at York, by Mr. <i>Tessyman</i> .

And by most printers and bookfellers in the capital towns throughout Great Britain and Ireland.

1871

1871

The first of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured by the drought. The weather was very hot, and the crops were much injured by the drought. The first of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured by the drought. The weather was very hot, and the crops were much injured by the drought.

The second of the year was a very wet one, and the crops were much injured by the rain. The weather was very cold, and the crops were much injured by the rain. The second of the year was a very wet one, and the crops were much injured by the rain. The weather was very cold, and the crops were much injured by the rain.

The third of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured by the drought. The weather was very hot, and the crops were much injured by the drought. The third of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured by the drought. The weather was very hot, and the crops were much injured by the drought.

